



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department: Crossroads School</b>	<b>Report Date: 4/12/21</b>
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**Enrollment:**

<b>Current Enrollment:</b>	
Enrollment as of March 31, 2021	Referrals: 1
Actual: 41	Intakes Scheduled: 1
Changes: Entered: 1    Exited: 1	Accepted: Pending

**Emergency Drills:**

<b>Fire Drill: 3/17/21</b>	<b>Other (Specify Type): 3/11/21</b>
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**Curriculum and Instruction:**

**Kaley Francis, Preschool Class-Room 101:**

Started off the month of March with a fun spirit week celebrating Dr. Seuss. Each day the student and staff were encouraged to participate in the theme for the day. Along with the theme for the day, we focused on a particular Dr. Seuss book for the day with a fun craft. It was a great way to bring school spirit and start off a new month, the month that brings us warmer, sunnier weather!

We then continued the month of March learning about community helpers. Each day we highlighted a specific community helper to learn more about. We learned about firefighters, police officers, teachers, doctors, nurses, and scientists; just to name a few. As March continued, we celebrated St. Patrick’s Day and learned about shamrocks and leprechauns. We will end the month learning about the new season of Spring, Easter, Bunnies and Passover. Each day we engage in our morning calendar, a fun craft and various activities that align with our weekly theme, which the students really enjoy. The students are also provided with videos, worksheets, read alouds, crafts and activities in which they cover the weekly theme. I am excited for the warmer weather, allowing us to get outside more and provide us with opportunities to use the outdoor classroom.

**Consuelo Alzate, Preschool Class-Room 102:** has been busy and continues to work on our thematic units. This month the kids were super excited celebrating Women History Month. They had learned and celebrated the most important women in their lives, their mothers, and teachers by creating artwork and cards. The kids are also learning about Spring and are creating amazing work to celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day.

Some of the children’s personal gains during this month are as follow:

- Rasheed is now able to travel 3 to 4 feet to exchange PECS for his favorite food.
- Richard is now learning to independently pull his pants and pull ups up/down during bathroom time.
- Jose is now able to use a spoon and fork to eat his food.
- Alaiyaa has mastered recognizing numbers 1 to 20.

All students continue to work on wearing their masks for longer periods of time, keeping social distance and are working on learning to wash hands more frequently.

**Allison Gebler, Room 103:**

Allison Gebler’s class had a very exciting March! Students attended in-person and via the [Virtual Classroom](#) assignments. We were also very lucky to welcome a new student, Harith!

In the area of Language Arts, students practiced their listener skills with the SRA Language Arts Program. Each student continued to make progress on their individual pre-reading and reading goals. Students practiced tracing and/or copying their names, with visual guide boxes.

In the area of Math, students practiced math concepts during activity schedules (counting objects, sequencing, matching, and identifying numbers). Students also engaged in money activities involving matching and sorting bills and coins. Weekly cooking lessons incorporated measurement, one-to-one correspondence, and the overall idea of cardinality during task completion.

In the areas of Science / Social Studies, students learned about Women's History Month during songs and videos introduced during Morning Meeting. Students celebrated other March events and holidays including St. Patrick's Day, the first day of Spring, Passover, and Daylight Savings Time. Review of classroom routines and appropriate social interactions during a pandemic was completed as part of the welcoming of Harith.

Room 103's Star Student, Stella, has begun to tolerate completing some hands-on tasks provided her teacher. Stella's independent ability to complete inset puzzles was shared via photos from her mother.

The best part of March was meeting our new and very social friend Harith! Our class is looking forward to celebrating Sebastian's birthday before Spring break begins!

**Lindsay DeNigris, Classroom 105:** Working on several different thematic units. We started the month by celebrating Dr. Seuss week! Every day was a different theme and both students and staff dressed up accordingly. This was a great idea for the whole school, and we loved having and participating in spirit week! Each day we sat down and read a different Dr. Seuss book and did a craft or activity to match it. We tried to balance 10 apples on our heads for *Ten Apples Up On Top*, made a hat with our names on it for *The Cat In The Hat*, graphed rainbow goldfish for *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*, and tried "green eggs" (green pudding and a vanilla wafer) for *Green Eggs and Ham*.

After our Dr. Seuss unit, we started to learn about St. Patrick's Day. We have read two adaptive books, one about things we see on St. Patrick's Day and one about what leprechauns do. During these books, students have to match different pieces to the page we are reading. One of the crafts we have done is working together to make rainbows. Each student was given different color strips of paper. To practice fine motor skills, they ripped their strips into little pieces of paper. Once this was done, the students glued their pieces onto their rainbow. Students then had to share and ask one another to use their color to complete their rainbow. Another activity we will be doing is completing "If a Leprechaun granted me three wishes, I would wish for...". Students will color their shamrock and pick out three different options of what they would wish for. We will also read "*There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Clover* and *How to Catch a Leprechaun*. Then students will work together to make a leprechaun trap! To end the unit, we will make friendship St. Patrick's Day treats. Each marshmallow in the Lucky Charm cereal will stand for a different trait (kindness, respect, sharing etc.) and we will end up with delicious rice Krispy treats!

Another theme this month is "In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb". We will talk about all of the different types of weather we are having this month now that it is almost spring! After talking about the different weather, students will get to vote on which weather is their favorite. We will also categorize the different activities and clothing items we can wear while it's sunny, snowy, and rainy. After learning about the weather and seasons, students will get to create their own "lion weather" and "lamb weather" painting. We will also begin our spring projects to hang around the room to decorate!

**Christina Witte, Middle School Class, Room 109:**

This month we headed into Spring with all our activities. We started preparing our garden beds and planted seeds in our indoor growing frame. The students have been learning about plants and seeds through many different activities. We have been comparing, sorting and feeling different types of seeds, we sprouted beans in clear panels, so that we were able to observe the sprouts and roots 'underground,' and the students have been taking care of the seedling in the classroom as part of a daily routine.

While March is also women's history month, we have been learning about some "Crazy Plant Ladies" throughout history, who have made some significant impacts in the field of Botany. We dried and pressed and labeled some flowers, like Emily Dickinson, we explored and looked at pictures of mushrooms, which was a specialty of Beatrix Potter. We also made some sun-exposure print art by placing plants and plant pieces onto the sun-paper, like Anna Atkins.

### **Speech Department:**

Crossroads School students continue to participate in a hybrid or fully remote learning program, depending on parent choice. The speech department works in the classrooms with students attending in-person learning while live speech and language therapy sessions continue to be conducted via the Google Meet video platform with students learning at home.

Thematic lessons have been provided throughout the month of March, including: Read Across America, Women's History Month, St. Patrick's Day, and Spring. The BOOMCards application and the Teachers Pay Teachers website are popular resources for students, families, and speech therapists alike.

### **Specific Student Outcomes:**

Samuel F. has recently made a transition from fully remote to hybrid in-school learning. All of Sam's therapies are currently taking place at school, and it is so great to see him again in person! He looks truly joyful to be back at school, and his progress is already evident. Sam is working hard at school and demonstrates good cooperation on all tasks during speech sessions. Crossroads is proud of Sam for helping to make his transition back to school a seamless one!

Gautham S. is working hard in speech sessions from home, with the help of his supportive family. It is impressive that Gautham's family members rotate to work with him during his live sessions, including his mom, dad and twin sister! Gautham has made nice gains in sorting objects by attributes and categories and developing a better understanding of prepositions. He is clearly motivated to be successful during his speech sessions and is getting the job done! Nice work, Gautham!

Justin M. is transitioning well back to full time in person instruction. He recently has demonstrated amazing progress in structured speech sessions, since the implementation of an AAC high technology device with the Proloquo2Go application. He has started to not only request for highly preferred items on his device using direct selection but he has also demonstrated the ability to say words for those items (e.g. "ball"). Well done, Justin!

**Aliza Feuerstein, Physical Therapy Department:** Currently have one physical therapist working two days a week at Crossroads School. We are continuing to provide a combination of in-person, teletherapy and electronic emailed physical therapy treatment sessions this month.

I continue to develop positive rapport with our families participating in live teletherapy sessions from home. It is great to see our parents so involved in the treatment sessions!

One Crossroads' student was approved to begin PT this month. His family has opted for emailed sessions however a bag of PT equipment was prepared and sent home to allow for improved participation in his exercises.

Our in-person students continue to make progress this month towards their PT goals and objectives. Both R.S. and J.H. Initiated the first steps of jumping this month after much practice. Hopefully, this gross motor skill will continue to emerge over the next few weeks. Now that the weather is starting to improve, it has been great taking our students on the playground for some of their PT sessions. L.E. is able to practice stair negotiation again (on the playground) which is such an important skill for him to be working on. S.V. continues to demonstrate progress with balancing on one foot which is a skill that after years of practice just emerged this year!

Those that have opted out of live teletherapy sessions are receiving electronic sessions via email on their remote weeks. These emailed sessions are specifically designed for each student based on their IEP goals and include pictures, videos and instructions of how to perform the exercises at home.

<b>Community Based Instruction and Special Events:</b>
<b>Professional Development:</b>



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department: Hillcrest Academy North</b>	<b>Report Date: 4/7/21</b>
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<b>Enrollment:</b>	
<b>Current Enrollment: 80</b> <b>Acceptances: 3</b>	<b>Intakes: 6</b> <b>Disenrollments: 0</b>
<b>Emergency Drills:</b>	
<b>Fire Drill: 2/07/21</b>	<b>Other: Non-Fire Evacuation 2/21/21</b>

<b>Curriculum and Instruction:</b>
<p>For the month of March, Algebra 2 students had a lot of fun exploring online graphing tools to analyze real-life applications of rate of change. Moving further into second semester, Algebra 2 is becoming more about application and analysis instead of organizing data. Students evolve with combining technology platforms to save time and think critically when faced with real life word problems to make decisions via IXL.com. The distance learning virtual assignments gave a lot of opportunity to practice independently and learn to rely on multiple resources for best results. Together, as a class, they explored when is best to use specific websites and programs to display data. Overall, the students’ favorite online graphing tool was Desmos.com, to represent each situation graphically.</p> <p>Geometry students have completed the study of the centers of triangles and have moved on to quadrilaterals. Analyzing parallelograms has required previous knowledge of parallel lines and angles they form. Polygons can be divided into several triangles and then explore the angle measures and the triangles formed. The IXL program has been an excellent resource for formative assessments and the website Math is Fun has been a reliable source of information and interactive tools. It has made a huge difference in the ability to teach virtual where hands on learning have been so reduced.</p> <p>The students in Probability &amp; Statistics are working on normal distributions and relating the data to applications that students can relate to. The first in is grade distribution and explaining what is meant by putting grades “on a curve.”</p> <p>In English, students wrote a character analysis of the main character using the highlights and annotations they have created since the beginning of the book. They also wrote a department written response. Students then learned about Media Literacy using Crash Course, a YouTube Channel that makes educational videos. They learned that media literacy is the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, create and act using all forms of communication. They learned about the history of media, how it affects and influences your mind, the money behind it, how it has changed how we act. We also explored how misinformation and propaganda can easily take hold in our minds and started to look at how media can affect our future.</p> <p>Also in English, students completed the argumentative essay unit by writing counterclaims and completing a department wide common assessment. Students began a new unit on narrative writing. The unit began with students writing a short narrative snapshot about themselves in order for the teacher to learn more about them. Students engaged in lessons and completed assessments on story elements, plot development, conflict, narration, and dialogue. Students have been presenting slideshows on conflict during Google Meets.</p>

### **Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

This year's Career Day had to be carried out virtually and was a success despite our distance. Students were able to hear personal accounts from several professionals that all come from New Jersey. Students followed along and reflected on the speakers' description of what makes their job exciting and what obstacles they have had to overcome. Afterwards, students were asked to research four careers using the Occupational Outlook Handbook and fill in a chart with data and descriptions. The user-friendly link is <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/> where you can search hundreds of careers and find the median average salary for 2019 and the job outlook for the future.

Throughout the month of March, the social worker continued to meet with students and staff regarding student progress. Regular "advocate meetings" were held with staff to identify success stories and concerns. Follow up phone calls home were made with Mr. Marquet when identified, as necessary. This month, the juniors and seniors took the SAT at their home academies as an Elizabeth graduation requirement. The guidance counselor met with the students to answer any questions and to notify the students of the SAT School day testing procedures. In addition, Ms. Shulhafer audited new students' transcripts and created their all-remote schedules. As the end of the marking period approaches, we continue to discuss progress with students with a focus on senior progress towards graduation.

#### **St. Patrick's Day:**

Students were provided with a lesson on limericks, humorous poems originating in Ireland, and given an extra credit opportunity to create their own limerick.

#### **Yearbook:**

Yearbook committee students have been working to create a layout, cover page, and design for the yearbook to reflect the theme of remote learning. Students have been submitting "selfies" for this year's yearbook so that all students can be included in the yearbook.

#### **Women's History Month:**

During Friday SEL classes, students celebrated Women's History Month with lessons on influential women in history and today, and lessons on Latina women. Students wrote about an influential woman in their lives and researched a famous Latina woman.

### **Professional Development:**

HAN's PLC decided that the most effective use of time would be to share remote learning strategies given this new instructional setting. As a result, the PLC team chose to share aloud a useful remote instructional technique with models and examples during the meetings. Teachers are required to sign up for a future date indicating the strategy they would be teaching and providing some resources which will act as "bank of tools and strategies" for all the teachers to access during remote learning. This has proven to be an effective use of time. We look forward to continuing these efforts of sharing tools and strategies in remote learning during future PLC meetings in April and May.

The social worker attended two professional development courses: Healthy Relationships and Youth Mental Health First Aid. They were both relevant to our students and provided useful information.



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department: Hillcrest Academy South</b>	<b>Report Date: 3/31/21</b>
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**Enrollment:**

Current Enrollment: 87	Intakes: TBD-waiting for parental responses and additional students from the Elizabeth Academies.
Acceptances: 4	Disenrollments: 0

**Emergency Drills:**

Relaxed Fire Drills: 2/11/21 (Cohort B for LMA & WL) & 2/17/21 (Cohort A for LMA & WL)	Other: Relaxed Non-Fire Evacuation: 2/12/22 (Cohort B for LMA & WL) & 2/17/21 (Cohort A for LMA & WL)
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**Curriculum and Instruction:**

Classes were infused with Women's History Month and Read Across America material throughout the month of March. Additionally, SEL activities focused on HAS students being on remote education due to the COVID-19 pandemic for one year. The SEL Day activity was implemented on 3/26/21 during HAS's afternoon SEL Group Activity.

**Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

A plaque arrived at the 1571 building to memorialize the UCESF Capital Campaign from 2015-2017 entailed "Our Cool Gym". This grant provided the much-needed air condition, sound system, and gym equipment. Dr. Balsamello facilitated the physical education department in ordering the materials and the HAS senior class donated funds that they raised through fundraisers over those years.

Every month students are recognized for their achievements and receive an incentive. This is posted on Dr. Baslamello's Google Classroom, the family and student receive an email with the award(s), and the students decided that the incentive of a five-dollar Dunkin' Donut gift card was extremely rewarding. March's Student of the Month Award recipients were as follows: Student of the Month-James Ramirez; Citizenship-Venetia Venus; Respect-Angel Cardona; English, Ms. Cioffi-Alaysia Negron; English, Ms. Holden-Khalil Valentine; Health, Mr. Barone-Shana McCrary; Health, Ms. Rubin-Anthony Perez; Math, Ms. Ferrari-Jasmine Plantz; Math, Ms. Clark-Isaiah Montes; Science, Ms. Arora-Shana McCrary; Science, Mr. Reichman-Khalil Valentine; Spanish, Ms. Cherville-James Ramirez; Social Studies, Ms. Duarte-Anthony Perez; Social Studies, Ms. Wrzesinski-Venetia Venus. Students with Perfect Attendance were Joshua Acevedo, Alaysia Negron, James Ramirez, Cierra Sanchez, Tajmir Squire, & Khalil Valentine. Perseverance Awards were earned for demonstrating tremendous efforts: Joshua Acevedo, Tahaj Bowers, Gregory Clarke, Kiara Cruz, Shana McCrary, Anthony Piedrasanta, James Ramirez, and Khalil Valentine.

**Professional Development:**

Since a parent survey was sent out to determine how many students would physically return for school, the HAS Pandemic Response Team met weekly on Wednesday at 1:30 through Google Meets to identify and create specific procedures for when the students return to a hybrid schedule. They also communicate with staff for suggestions. Administration, social workers, and the guidance counselor began working on schedule drafts to best meet the needs of all students.

PLCs continued to focus on engagement strategies to support students and families to be successful at school virtually whereas the Department meetings have focused on staff sharing lessons and activities.





**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department: Lamberts Mill Academy</b>	<b>Report Date: 3/31/21</b>
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<b>Enrollment:</b>	
<b>Current Enrollment:</b> 42 Total <b>LMA Campus:</b> 31 <b>New Point:</b> 13 <b>New Point at LMA:</b> 2	<b>Intakes:</b> 3 <b>Acceptances:</b> 0 <b>Disenrollments:</b> 4
<b>Emergency Drills:</b> 4	
<b>Emergency Drill:</b> 3 <b>Fire:</b> 3/23/21	<b>Other:</b> 3/17/21 Shelter in Place/Lockdown

**Curriculum and Instruction:**

**English:**

In celebration of Women in history, students created presentations based on varied authors, journalists and broadcasters which inspired them. We were able to exhibit our public speaking skills and share our great appreciation for these women’s efforts and success. Additionally, we completed our Narrative unit with our district wide assessment and have begun exploring Poetry and Analytical Writing. After several years we have finally met our goal of 10,000 pop tabs in support of the Ronald McDonald House. We celebrated our community service efforts by all students having McDonald’s ice cream sundaes. Lastly, a big thank you to Union High School for the huge donation of books we received for the Lamberts Mill Academy Library.

**History:**

Social Studies students have been working on a cross content project for Women’s History Month. Students chose one influential, historical figure to research and complete a Google Slides project about in Social Studies classes. Once they have completed the research project, students will be writing a reflection statement on why that person is a role model during their English classes. A selection of students’ completed research projects will be sent to Mrs. Dattilo to be added to a UCESC wide Women’s History Month Presentation. Students were also able to participate in an all-school assembly featuring Tomika Carter, who has worked at several psychiatric hospitals in various leadership positions. Students listened to a presentation via Google Meet and were able to participate in a Questions and Answers session with Ms. Carter. Students were engaged and enthusiastic to participate in another school assembly and some students have stated that they are looking forward to a time when guest speakers can speak to students in person.

**Mathematics:**

The month of March has been busy with all students given the option to return to full time instructions. All mathematics classes discussed influential women in mathematics in honor of Women’s History Month. We did focus our discussions on famous pilot, Amelia Earhart, and how she used mathematics in order to fly. Students working in consumer mathematics learned about working with gratuity and tips for different restaurants, and different dining experiences in order to correctly apply a tip. Algebra 2 students were exposed this month to complex numbers, and how there is a difference between real numbers and imaginary numbers. Students have been working with simplifying imaginary numbers and applying properties to reduce expressions. Students in Algebra 1 continue to work with the coordinate plane system and utilize the Desmos website to manipulate different linear equations. Students in Algebra 1 also tested “The Vitruvian man” claim that your arm span is equivalent to height, and graphed their results on the coordinate plane creating the linear equation  $y = x$ . Finally,

students in Geometry have been continuing to work with Volume of different shapes and creating 3-dimensional models of these shapes. After they create these models, students have been measuring their dimensions, and correctly using formulas to solve for volume and surface area.

**Community Based Instruction and Special Events: N/A**

**Professional Development:**

LMA staff continues to practice and implement what we learned about Positive Behavioral Supports and legally compliant IEP's.



## Union County Educational Services Commission Superintendent Report

<b>School/Department: Nonpublic Services</b>	<b>Report Date: 4/9/21</b>
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<b>Enrollment:</b>
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<b>Current Enrollment as of March 31st:</b>	<b>Acceptances:</b> N/A
Total Comp Ed Services: 843	<b>Acceptances:</b> N/A
Total Supplemental Instruction Services: 500	<b>Intakes:</b> N/A
Total Speech Services: 178	<b>Disenrollments:</b> N/A

<b>Emergency Drills:</b>
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<b>Fire Drill: N/A</b>	<b>Other: N/A</b>
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<b>Curriculum and Instruction:</b>
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Nonpublic programs vary on how students are provided services. Some programs offer in-person, virtual or a combination of both as a means to deliver instruction. Nonpublic teachers continue to track student growth and achievement using the model their assigned nonpublic school utilizes. Teachers continue to utilize Elmo cameras during virtual learning. Speech Therapist continue to send Loom recordings to assist in providing speech language and articulation lessons.

Nonpublic teachers completed progress reporting for all students receiving supplemental instruction. Progress reports will be sent to parents within the next week.

Nonpublic nurses continue to provide in-person services to our nonpublic school students and assist with Covid-19 contact tracing.

Nonpublic State programs: Consultation meetings are scheduled for each public school district and with the nonpublic schools in their town for 2021-2022 programming. 192/193, IDEA, Textbook, Security, Technology and Nursing programs will be reviewed and consent to provide services for the 2021-2022 will be gained.

<b>Community Based Instruction and Special Events:</b>
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<b>Professional Development</b>
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Nonpublic teachers continue to use ELMO cameras when providing virtual lessons to students and Pear Deck training. Teacher, paraprofessionals, and nurses are continuing to work on GCN trainings set forth by UCESC.
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## Union County Educational Services Commission Superintendent Report

<b>School/Department: Technology</b>	<b>Report Date: 4/9/21</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>Printer infrastructure reconfiguration to speed up print jobs          Plan network improvement project          Warranty Extension for virtual environment as we plan for future server footprint.          Resolve Transportation department drive mapping issue.          Comcast work to port last fax numbers to new accounts.          Complete and file Forms 471 for CAT1 and 2.</p>	
<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: 4/14/21</b>
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**Enrollment:**

N/A

**Emergency Drills:**

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

On March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Motor Vehicle Commission conducted an on-site inspection of the Commission’s fleet. Of the nineteen vehicles in the fleet, all passed inspection. The fleet is set for another six months of service until the next scheduled inspection in September.

An updated estimate of total yearly transportation costs will be mailed to all participating districts on April 26, 2021. Since billing for services rendered is done on a monthly basis and there have been many changes since the last report was sent, this report is needed by the districts for budget planning and preparation, especially with the end of the school year approaching.

The cut-off date for the submission of summer school transportation applications is April 23, 2021. Reminder letters were sent to all participating districts on March 26, 2021 via email. The Transportation Coordinator and Transportation staff will work closely with the districts to communicate the needs to get summer routes set up. (Requesting missing applications, following up on missing information, gathering Seizure Action Plans, and providing assistance where needed to ensure students are assigned transportation for the summer)

B6T transportation request forms for Non-Public transportation are due to UCESC by April 15, 2021, we have been receiving some forms via email to this date.

The Transportation office is finishing another busy year even with the pandemic the department is operating over 600 daily routes. Bidding competition amongst the bus companies is sparse. This drives prices higher, however, we continue to provide the most cost-effective services possible to our participating districts. However, the number of requests and hence the number of routes operating remain very high. The pandemic is playing a large part of additional routes needed because of the social distancing requirements.

**Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

**Professional Development**



## Union County Educational Services Commission Superintendent Report

<b>School/Department:</b> Westlake School	<b>Report Date:</b> 4/6/21
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<b>Enrollment:</b>
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Current Enrollment: 54 Acceptances: 0	Intakes: 3 Disenrollments: 0
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<b>Emergency Drills: 4</b>
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<b>Fire Drill: (Relaxed Fire Drill)</b>  March 16, 2021 – Cohort A March 23, 2021 – Cohort B	<b>Other (Specify Type): Shelter-in-Place transition to a Lockdown</b>  March 18, 2021 – Cohort A March 25, 2021 – Cohort B
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<b>Curriculum and Instruction:</b>
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Mrs. Porchetta’s class participated in math, graphing/comparing data, finding various ways to reach the same outcome and patterns were studied. In language arts they worked on sentence structure, opposites, and cause/effect in text. In social studies students learned why St. Patrick’s Day is celebrated and emphasized respect after reading Johnny Appleseed and Carla’s Sandwich. Topics in science this month included the formation of rainbows and how animals and plants use their external parts to help them survive. Students also explored Canadian and Thai Culture before our virtual trips to which our students enjoyed.

Mrs. Roble’s student’s review calendar skills everyday stating the month, day and date and identifying today, yesterday, and tomorrow. Students continue to work on coin recognition, identification and stating the value of the coin in math. They also work on recognizing shapes and colors. They continue to practice skip counting by fives. Students continue to work on identifying vocabulary words such as food, clothing, everyday objects, and animals. They 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

Mrs. Swisher’s class focused on money skills and addition and subtraction. Students learned about the different coins/bills and their values. They played some online games to reinforce some of those concepts. They also learned about banking, debit/credit cards, and the importance of keeping their money safe. Students completed several live worksheets during their virtual and in person classes counting money to see if we had enough to purchase specific items. In science students are focusing on a solar system unit. They learned about the lunar cycle, solar and lunar eclipses, and the planets Mercury and Venus. Students were engaged in hands on activities, interactive videos, and follow up worksheets. During social studies field trips around the world included a visit to Mexico where we visited pyramids and a trip to Australia where we learned about some of the animals that are native to the land. In our own country we learned about Idaho and Illinois.

Mrs. Shaw’s class learned how to celebrate Presidents’ Day by reading various presidential biographies: Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, and Joe Biden. In Reading, the students read various winter animal’s stories and learned how to identify similarities and differences among the winter animals by using the Venn diagram. In Math, the students continued focusing on counting coins and worked on cardinal numbers. In Science, the students learned how animals adapted in the winter season such as Hibernation, Migration, and Adaptation. For Life Skills,

the students had discussions about various safety questions in real life situations. During unexpected virtual sessions, the students learned how to sign language for Covid 19 symptoms. They also read the story "I can handle it" and learned how to cope in difficult situations. For cooking sessions, the students learned how to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and had various cooking activities such as making Green apple dip, Green Pudding, and Shamrock Shake by reading and following recipes. The students enjoyed playing Jeopardy Games during the Fun Friday activities.

Mrs. Palmer's students have been working on some candy orders. A Parent sent in an order sheet for Easter Candy. During this month they have made Irish Soda Bread and Irish Tea cakes. The students have also prepared pancakes and strawberry muffins. The students are enjoying cooking and see Mr. Carten's class on the computer as they cook side by side in separate classrooms. Mrs. Palmer teaches food preparation to Mr. Carten's class by having them on the computer while she is teaching her class. Students like to demonstrate and wave to the other students while they are cooking. For Black history month students read about several black people. They watched a video about Katherine Johnson. During this month Mrs. Palmer made a video about her mother who was a Rosie the Riveter during WWII. The students all enjoy watching the video. Mrs. Palmer is also reading a book entitled "The Women's Rights Movement."

Mrs. Pajewski's focus on math skills that are individualized to various levels of matching/ counting, addition/subtraction, money skills and time. Reading skills have included matching pictures, Edmark 1 & 2, and comprehension skills. This month students have started reading the Frog & Toad series with cohort B students. Students continue to work with the Digital March Meeting both in class and virtually according to the weekly cohort skill levels. In social studies we have explored community helpers and weekly Scholastic topics have included author Christian Robinson, and Mae Jemison (women in history). This month has included women in history, St. Patrick's Day and Spring. In science we have completed our weather and water cycle unit. This month we have enjoyed school Spirit Day Bingo.

Mrs. Fernandez's class is working with nouns, common sight words, and identifying elements of a story. In math students are learning the concept of one more and one less of an amount. They are also reviewing previous skills and generalizing them to March themed activities. Individually, students have continued to work on their specific programs such as: 1:1 correspondence, touch math, money skills, matching, and sorting. In Social Studies students are learning about Ireland, the history of Saint Patrick's Day, and beginning our Women's studies unit on influential women in history and today. In science students continue to work on how to create and problem solve like an inventor. In SEL students are creating their own reinforcement and coping strategies journals. Students are practicing using these to problem solve in the moment to regulate their emotions based on the zones curriculum.

Mrs. Convery's class has been celebrating Women's History Month by studying various women who have been "the first"- Mae Jemison, Amelia Earhart and Jane Goodall. Students have utilized readings, graphs, videos, online books, Scholastic magazine and google slides presentations to enhance the learning objectives. In addition, we had fun during Read Across America and St. Patrick's Day, even sharing jokes such as "Why can't you iron a four-leaf clover?" "Because you should never press your luck!" Students continue working on their money skills during our live lessons. They are using the Touch Money method to count coins up to \$3.00. In the area of Science, we have completed our study of the human body and have begun our study of the solar system. Students seem eager to begin this unit. We were all amazed when we saw pictures from the Mars Rover. They could not believe that such high-quality pictures could come from so far away. Technology is amazing. We also polled the class on whether they would like to travel in space, and it was split 50/50. Half wanted to explore, and the other half wanted to keep their feet firmly on the ground.

Some of the Famous Americans Women that have been discussed in Mr. Carten's class are Amelia Earhart famous for her solo flights across the Atlantic, Kamala Harris the current Vice President of the US, Jane Goodall-Scientist who studied Chimpanzees & Gorillas on the continents of Africa. Malala Yousafzai human rights activists and Beyonce entertainer and philanthropies. In the subject of Science, students continue to discuss Arctic animals in the region which include: Arctic Wolf, Adelle Penguins, seals walrus

**Art:**

Students have been transitioning from studying African American Artists in celebration of black history month to studying important Women Artists in celebration of Women in Art Month. For Black History Month, students learned about artists such as Jacob Lawrence, Lois Mailou Jones, Clementine Hunter, and Horace Pippin. They made collages using architectural elements and shapes much like the street scenes from Harlem in Jacob Lawrence's work. They made prints inspired by Jones' work repeating and overlapping organic and geometric shapes. Students painted Zinnias like Hunter. And like Pippin, students did a directed drawing of a fox with an addition of a background and near/far objects.

Students are now beginning to explore famous Women Artists and are beginning with a mixed media piece inspired by Claudia Chaseling, a contemporary German artist. Students will use their knowledge of line and color to make this piece. They will use a new technique called mono-printing to add color to their artwork.

We will make a collage project based on the storytelling and quilts of Faith Ringgold, a mixed media piece based on the artwork of Pacita Abad, and watercolor flowers like Helen Frankenthaler.

**Physical Education and Health:**

The students have been working really hard and have been showing so much progress on some of the new exercises they have been trying to work on. For example, last month the students were introduced to the 'kneel and stand and kneel again' exercise and they are doing amazing!! Some of the new exercises and movements that we are incorporating are core moves. Some of the exercises require multi-step directions and multi-planar movements from sitting, standing and prone positions. We received our steppers from the Grant and now all the students have access to steppers in their classrooms. During Health this month, we talked and participated in more activities that deal with Social Emotional Learning, The Whole Child and Mindfulness. One specific topic was about caring and what does being selfless and selfish look like.

**Social Work:**

Throughout the month preplanning and IEP meetings have continued to be discussed and held on a virtual platform. This format has worked out well for the parents and many case managers. On a whole most parents have been complimentary with regard to educators and administrators overseeing daily instruction of their children. Social worker has been checking in with parents to assist with the increasing direct- service needs. Several have needed assistance with concrete services due to challenging circumstances that can thwart one's efforts during these challenging times.

A number of parents were assisted with PerformCare applications in order to secure additional support services. Other parents have needed assistance with revisiting the requirements of the Transition process and options available. Case managers at local DDD offices are working with social worker to meet the needs of our families in a timely manner.

Dr. Amy has been working in tandem with social worker and BCBA to assist parents of students with emotional issues that have escalated while at home. Parents have sought support with issues relating to their child's fears about returning to in-person learning after a year.

Students dealt with a tough loss by signing handmade cards for one of the Pet Therapy handlers of a favorite dog who passed away. During Covid we were able to carry on our Pet Therapy visits through a virtual platform spending time with this treasured pet and his furry friends.

**Behaviorists:**

This month BCBA & RBT continued to support classroom staff in the return of some students to weekly in-person instruction. This support will continue, along with consulting with teachers on developing remote instruction which facilitates learning. Parental support continues as well, during remote lessons, via phone calls and emails as needed and requested. Online resources for families are posted weekly as well on the school website, on my behaviorist webpage. Creation of materials for individual students, to assist teachers in maximizing learning has been occurring. RBT has continued entering and graphing data, as well as beginning to take data during remote lessons under the supervision of the BCBA's.



- Attended IEP meetings for students.
- Begin prep/assessment for upcoming BIPs for IEPs in April.
- Intake packet review and feedback offered for three students.
- Data collection and analysis on remote lessons to track on-task behavior and to assess student learning has continued.
- Dr. Amy psychiatric consult meeting was held last week with BCBA's and social worker giving input.
- Intensive planning, consulting, and modeling behavioral and instructional practices has occurred for the following students:

### **Therapies:**

Currently we have one physical therapist working three days a week at Westlake School with nineteen students receiving physical therapy services. Our students continue to receive PT via in person therapy, live teletherapy sessions, electronic emailed sessions, or a combination. Mrs. Feurestein has a positive rapport with our families participating in live teletherapy sessions from home. It is great to see our parents so involved in the treatment sessions! Here are a few examples of student successes with teletherapy sessions this month. J.M.'s mother asked for advice on equipment to purchase for home use to further increase upper body strength. Mrs. Feuerstein guided her in the purchase of a large therapy ball and medicine ball and taught her how to use them in between sessions. D.V. continues to wow us with the tremendous amount of PT progress he is making despite being completely in remote school. This month he learned another new bilateral coordination exercise after just two sessions!

Occupational Therapists are holding OT sessions both in person and virtually. The Therapists have researched and implemented new online resources to make virtual learning as effective as possible by refreshing our boom learning and teacher pay teacher accounts with new activities. Some students are officially coming into school full time therefore receiving their sessions while in the building, others continue to be seen virtually, and others have opted for emailed OT sessions. These emailed sessions are sent every week with individualized OT activities according to the student's IEP goals.

This month in speech, the therapists continued to treat students both in person and virtually. Themes this month included conversations related to iconic women in history in honor of Women's History Month. Students also celebrated St. Patrick's Day by engaging in various activities related to the holiday including: reading passages/answering questions about the history of St. Patrick's Day, following directions related to structured worksheets and learning funny themed jokes. The speech department targeted social emotional learning by reading books and having conversations based around kindness. In addition, we also, celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by reading his books. Finally, they continued to address student's goals including: making inferences, following directions, maintaining conversations.

### **Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

The Job Academy schedule was changed to accommodate the number of students who returned to full-time in school status. Five in-school sessions were added to the schedule to accommodate full-time students. The hybrid Cohorts A and B remained as scheduled (remote twice a week every two weeks), and fully remote learning students. Students began learning about Growth Mindset. They participated in a mindset assessment to identify their own mindset ([RE Mindset Assessment](#)), then watched an attention- getting video that clearly described the difference between growth and fixed mindsets and why growth mindsets are needed ([Video: Growth vs Fixed Mindset](#)). Boom card exercises provided opportunities for students to reinforce their understanding between growth and fixed mindset statements and to begin forming their own growth mindset self-talk statements ([Boom Cards: Growth Mindset](#)).

Students also learned that effort plays an important role in growing your mindset and not to be afraid of failure ([Video: Don't Be Afraid of Failure](#)). Students are responding well to the Growth Mindset lessons and are beginning to self-advocate for themselves.

In celebration of Women's History Month, three students were assigned to read books about women's accomplishments: Ruth Bader-Ginsberg and Simone-Olympic Champion Biles. This was a growth mindset activity in which students had to log on to the Epic for Kids online reading website, click on their name, input their pin code and follow the directions for reading the books (7th Grade Reading Level) and taking the quiz ([Epic Books for Kids/Simone Biles](#)). All three students completed the reading of one book and the accompanying quiz, and one student completed the second book and quiz. Problem-solving student issues with being visually impaired by getting a family member to read the book online for the student, then reading the quiz questions for him and inputting his responses. Students have also been encouraged to submit their own stories of women in their lives.

**Women's History Month:**

In recognition of Women's History month the students have watched/listened to 3 stories: *If I Were an Astronaut* by Eric Braun read by an astronaut on the space station; Serena Aunon Chancellor as art of the Story Time From Space program, *Dream Big Little One* Vashti Harrison an adaptation of "Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History" a book that features 18 "trailblazing black women" and *Girls Can do Anything* by Caryl Hart a picture book that seeks to empower young women by showing them all the different things they can do.

This month, Mr. Shanfield has several meetings with the local Boy Scouts of America Council to bring back the Boy Scout troop to Westlake and it is progressing wonderfully and hopefully within the next two months or so we can start engaging in virtual Scout meetings.

**Professional Development:**

This month the staff finished the four-hour webinar on "Managing Emotions in Times of Uncertainty and Stress" as our school works towards increasing awareness in the area of Social Emotional Learning.

Staff also reviewed UCESC policies during staff meetings on Medical Marijuana Administration and Paul's Law.



**Union County Educational Services Commission  
Superintendent Report**

<b>School/Department:</b> Work Readiness Academy	<b>Report Date:</b> 4/9/21
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**Enrollment:**

<b>Current Enrollment:</b> 22 (includes WRA & Project SEARCH) <b>Acceptances:</b> 0	<b>Intakes:</b> 1 (1 accepted for SY 2021-22) <b>Disenrollments:</b> 0
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**Emergency Drills: 1**

<b>Fire Drill:</b> 3/16/21	<b>Other (Specify Type):</b> None
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**Curriculum and Instruction:**

The Work Readiness Academy programs spent the majority of the month of March in Hybrid Learning with students attending “in person” learning on a rotating cohort schedule. The program was forced to shift to full-time remote learning for the last week of the month.

Highlights from the instructional learning program this month included:

- **The importance of planning education and career paths aligned to personal goals & interests.**
  - Students began working on individualized Career Research Projects.
  - They used the results from their Career Interest Assessments to research one career from each of their top 2 career clusters.
  - As part of the project, they are identifying related knowledge, abilities, skills, wages, education/training, and sample work activities related to each career.
- **Effective Profile Statements for Resumes**
  - Students learned how to write an effective profile statement that references personal strengths and skills.
  - Students then practiced sharing their profile statements with each other for peer feedback.
- **The benefits of collaboration**
  - Students learned about the benefits of working as part of a team including the positive impacts on productivity and appreciation for diverse skill sets.

This month we celebrated Women’s History Month by spotlighting women who have made a positive impact on the business world. We also recognized Worldwide SEL Day by completing empathy and gratitude-themed activities that culminated in a Community Service Project that saw the students design and assemble their own COVID-fighting superhero figure which will be donated to younger children who may be struggling with anxiety related to the current pandemic.

### **Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**

In the absence of traditional Structured Learning Experiences and Community-Based Internships the staff spent much of the month of March implementing our new *"In House" internship experiences*. Students who are attending in person as part of our Hybrid model are now getting the opportunity to participate in one or more of our simulated "in house" work experiences that will include learning and developing clerical skills, customer service skills, food service skills, and general cleaning & hospitality skills. Students will get the chance to participate in an internship for approximately 60 minutes, 2-4 days per week. Additionally, we have assembled and delivered *"At Home Work Boxes"* for all students, including those who currently remain in full-time remote learning at home. These boxes are providing students with opportunities to work on simulated inventory and accounts payable tasks.

Beginning in March the Work Readiness Academy has introduced a new social tradition -- Virtual Bingo. Every other Friday the students are participating in a community Bingo game that helps reinforce good sportsmanship and appropriate social skills. It also serves as a chance for our school community to come together in a light and fun way to help counter some of the continuing stress and anxiety associated with the current pandemic.

### **Professional Development:**

Select staff members from the WRA completed their CPR recertification this month. Additionally, all staff received a refresher training on the potential needs of those students with documented seizure disorders, including those with Seizure Action Plans.