



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Crossroads School	Report Date: 4/30/21
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Enrollment:

Current Enrollment: 43	Intake: 0
Acceptances: 0	Disenrollments: 0

Emergency Drills:

Fire Drill: 4/29/21	Other (Specify Type): Lockdown Drill 4/19/21
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Curriculum and Instruction:

Numerous Crossroads classrooms celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd, 2021. In Susan Parenti's middle school classroom, students and staff discussed the plant life cycle. Students participated in watching a Brain Pop video and proceeded to discuss the various components of a plant cycle. Mrs. Parenti and staff also created a learning activity and project-based assessment aligned to the overall societal goal of conserving energy with an emphasis on the principles of climate change.

Crossroads School administrators, Reed Leibfried, Principal, and Melissa McLaughlin, Supervisor of Instruction collaborated with classroom teacher, Christina Witte, ordering a large sensory wall for the classroom. Interactive or visually stimulating items are added to the board and changed to correspond with the theme, student interests, and engagement of the student instructional lessons. Currently the board has a flip sequin board, a LegoDuplo mat, as well as many buttons and textured surfaces to touch and explore.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

As of April 30th, 2021, all Crossroads School students and parents that requested full time in-person classroom instruction are now present in our school facility one hundred percent of instructional days! The Crossroads School administrative team, behavior team and overall staff have been meeting consistently throughout the school year to creatively modify individual schedules in order to safely allow more students to receive in-person instruction.

The Crossroads School graduation committee met on Thursday, April 29th, 2021 during extended school hours to discuss graduation. Our committee is submitting a request to allow an in-person outdoor graduation to commence on June 18th, 2021. All middle school graduates will be permitted to invite two guests to attend the ceremony.

Professional Development:

Crossroads School was proud to provide our paraprofessionals and certified staff with two separate professional development opportunities during the month of April. Edmark Trainings (English Language Arts Curriculum) were provided to a combination of paraprofessionals and teachers on Thursday, April 22, 2021, and on Thursday, April 29, 2021, by Danielle Cicalese, BCBA, Marianny Amezcua, BCBA, and Jenifer Bace, RBT. The Edmark Reading Program is a curriculum-based program that is beneficial for students who are not yet able to decode but

can discriminate symbols, letters, and words. During the first training, the teachers and paraprofessionals were able to administer the mastery test on a sample student and graph the data. The staff had the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in the skill before moving on.

During the second training, a step-by-step overview of the program was discussed. Crossroads Paraprofessionals were able to demonstrate their skills while utilizing the Edmark program. The staff members utilized the Lesson Plan/Record Book that is used to keep track of the data from the Edmark program. They also had the opportunity to display their skills in administering the Word Recognition, Picture Match, Phrase Match, Stories, and Mastery Test portions of the Edmark Reading Program to proficiency. The administrative team will continue to prioritize professional development trainings throughout the school year.



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Hillcrest Academy North	Report Date: 4/29/21
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Enrollment:	
Current Enrollment: 80 Acceptances: 0	Intakes: 10 Disenrollments: 0
Emergency Drills:	
Fire Drill: 4/22/21	Other: Lockdown: 4/23/21

Curriculum and Instruction:
<p>In Creative Writing, the class 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. They also explored how misinformation and propaganda can easily take hold in our minds. They also started to look at how media can affect our future.</p> <p>In English, Students have been doing poetry during April for National Poetry Month. Students have learned about the elements of poetry, as well as how to identify lines, stanza, and rhyme schemes. Students moved on to analyzing poetry and identifying figurative language with the poem as well as the poem’s meaning and theme. Students also studied Sonnets and learned about the structure of a sonnet, its rhyme scheme, and iambic pentameter.</p> <p>In Mathematics, Algebra 2 students had a lot of fun exploring online graphing tools to analyze real-life applications of systems of linear equations. Moving further into the fourth marking period, Algebra 2 is becoming more about application to word problems and analysis instead of organizing data. Students have evolved with using IXL.com to master skill topics. The distance learning virtual assignments taught independence and application of various tools tight throughout the year. Students in Prob & Stat are completing the unit on normal distribution and the bell curve. They have analyzed the spread of data and compared data with the same mean but different standard deviations. They have interpreted standardized scores and “z scores” and drawn conclusions from the information. Students in Geometry are using the properties of different quadrilaterals in order to identify the figures. They are classifying the quadrilaterals as specific parallelograms, trapezoids, kites, or neither. Once identified, they can find the areas of the figure with the right formulas.</p> <p>Computer Science class has been writing code for animating figures and learning how to communicate with the computer basic functions commonly found in everyday video games. They started with placing rectangles and ellipses in specific locations on the screen, then moved up to creating characters and conditional animation.</p>
Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

The social worker has met with most of the Seniors to discuss what needs to be done in order for them to graduate in June or August. These students are working hard in their classes and continuing to work on credit retrieval. This month, the guidance counselor and social worker met with each senior as the third marking period came to an end. It is important each potential graduate knows their current graduation status so they can work with their teachers to submit missing assignments and work on their credit retrieval. They reviewed each student's current number of credits, testing status, and outstanding courses that would need to be completed in order for the potential senior to be eligible for a 2021 graduation.

SARP:

The ScIP Committee created an attendance incentive where 10 students would receive a \$5 gift card for perfect attendance for two weeks in their classes, and a pizza delivered would be delivered to the home of 5 students who had perfect attendance all month.

College Day:

Students will be engaging in a college day where a representative from UCC will be presenting on the college admission process, FAFSA, and the registration and enrollment process tomorrow, April 30.

Lunch Bunch:

The ScIP Committee organized a lunch bunch day for students to receive a bagged lunch with a sandwich of their choice that would be delivered to their home, and then they would get together on a Google Meet with the teachers to socialize.

Yearbook:

Yearbook committee students are completing the final stages of the yearbook and making it ready for publication. Some students are gathering photographs and designing page layouts while others are writing stories for the yearbook.

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. In the month of April, Jeremy Kaplan presented on "Nearpod".

The social worker and principal attended CPR training this month. Both were re-certified.



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Hillcrest Academy South	Report Date: 4/29/21
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Enrollment:	
Current Enrollment: 88 Acceptances: 1	Intakes: TBD-waiting for parental responses and additional students from Elizabeth Academies Disenrollments: 0
Emergency Drills:	
Relaxed Fire Drills: 4/23/21 (Cohort A for LMA & WLS) & 4/27/21 (Cohort B for LMA & WLS)	Other: Relaxed Lockdown: 4/21/21 (Cohort A for LMA & WLS) & 4/29/21 (Cohort B for LMA & WLS)

Curriculum and Instruction:

Ms. Schulhafer, the shared guidance counselor, met with each senior as the third marking period came to an end. It is important each potential graduate knows their current graduation status so they can work with their teachers to submit missing assignments and work on their credit retrieval. Ms. Schulhafer worked alongside Mr. Savoia to prepare for the NJSLA by managing the rosters and reviewing each student's transcript to determine whether or not they have met their graduation assessment requirements. Ms. Gilchrist, school social worker, regularly contacts students regarding their classes and grades. The social worker continues to assist students who individually contact her and require a personalized intervention whether it be academic or personal. Additionally, she continues in the Social Worker/Guidance Counselor Google Classroom.

Ms. Cherville's, shared Spanish teacher, students worked with a variety of basic vocabulary which they used to create meaningful statements. They also learned how to ask and answer yes/no questions as well as information questions. Spanish speakers worked on creative writing then discussed vocabulary meanings and messages. Ms. Cioffi assisted Ms. Clark with the English Coverage Program that utilizes the IXL program. Her English courses were dedicated towards learning and analyzing different points of views and perspectives in literature. English students then began identifying and analyzing different types of point of view in video clips of movies and television shows that are narrated. Assignments later focused on students using their knowledge of point of view and they began identifying and analyzing various narrative point of view types in different literary texts. Students then lastly practiced this skill by completing assignments on IXL that tested their knowledge on point of view.

In Ms. Arora's Environmental Science classes, students worked on reviewing planets and started the next unit on plate tectonics. The Pear Deck platform and Discovery Education was utilized to engage students. In her Forensic Science courses, students were working on manner, cause, and mechanism of death.

Mr. Reichman Chemistry students learned about the photon and the particle nature of light and how this is related to the idea of quanta, which will allow them to understand and use the modern quantum model of the atom. Mr. Reichman's Computer Science students have been using code.org's Game Lab to learn about the concept of sprites and how they can be used to more easily organize their code and develop apps for entertainment.

Ms. Ferrari assisted Ms. Clark with the Math Coverage Program that utilized the IXL program as well as worked closely with Mr. Jean-Pierre, the long-term replacement for the remainder of this school year. IXL Lessons were devised with clear measurable expectations. Codecogs was utilized to import rational equations into GoogleForms. Students completed multiple choice questions, marked all that apply questions and analytical long

text questions on their assignments. Pictures were also imported into GoogleForms which included but was not limited to exponential and quadratic function graphs, two dimensional and three-dimensional figures, and pictures of mathematical applications.

Mr. Barone's and Ms. Rubin's Health classes were permitted to turn any missing assignments to close out the third marking period as well as other assignments in order to improve their overall grades. The students were introduced to CPR and First Aid to start the fourth marking period.

Ms. Duarte's Economics students created their business PowerPoint presentations and shared their ideas with their peers; through this project students were able to understand the ways in which businesses are structured along with how to start and run a business. In U.S. History II, students concluded the study of World War II.

Ms. Wrzesinski's U.S. History I classes finished with their Manifest Destiny/ Westward expansion unit and have begun the causes of the Civil War whereas the U.S. History II classes finished their World War II unit.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

HAS was able to hire a long-term replacement for the mathematics vacancy as well as secure a full-time new employee for the next school year. Currently, Ms. Clark has transferred from the Math Coverage Program to the English Coverage Program until a long-term replacement can be hired.

The overall April Student of the Month was Keamya Osby. Citizenship-Zondre Joseph. English-Isaiah Montes & Maxlewis Oparanozie. Health-Keamya Osby & Khalil Valentine. Math-Isaiah Montes & Heavenlii Romero. Perseverance-Ericka Hayes, Emily Jean, Zondre Joseph, Heavenlii Romero, Romario Rowe, & Khalil Valentine. Science-Taivan Hanson & Romario Rowe. Respect-Zondre Joseph. Social Studies-Jason Chumbiauca & Anthony Piedrasanta. Spanish-James Ramirez.

Professional Development:

The HAS Pandemic Response Team continued to meet to finalize hybrid procedures and hybrid schedules were modified in anticipation of students returning. During PLCs and faculty meetings staff focused on engagement strategies to support students and families to be successful. The Department meetings have focused on staff sharing lessons and activities.



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Lamberts Mill Academy	Report Date: May 2021
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Enrollment:	
Current Enrollment: 44 Total LMA Campus: 31 New Point: 15 New Point at LMA: 2	Intakes: 0 Acceptances: 1 Disenrollments: 1

Emergency Drills: 2	
Fire Drill: 3 4/23/21 & 4/27/21 Fire Drill	Other: 4/21/21 & 4/29/21 Lockdown

Curriculum and Instruction:

English:
We kicked off our final unit of Poetry through experiencing live poetry readings in celebration of Poetry month. Students then created Diamante poems after being inspired from the poetry readings. We have also begun exploring the Theme “Becoming Me” with excerpts from Michelle Obama’s book *Becoming*. Additionally, we are using guided journaling to better explore ourselves through various self-expression techniques.

In ELA&L for Social Emotional Day, we began our class period with a mindful minute. Additionally, we initiated our new "Letters to an Elder" program. To build one's social emotional self it is important to give and be kind to others. This program is called "Love for our Elders" and it is their mission to help people to love, help people feel loved and sustain that love. We made cards and wrote letters to the elderly in senior communities across the globe.

History:
20th Century Civil Liberties students have continued their studies of Political Cartoons and will be creating their political cartoons this week. Students have an understanding of the different elements of a Political Cartoon and are able to explain the significance of using Political Cartoons in the classroom and the media. US II History students are wrapping up the unit on World War II and have been watching the movie *Midway* to further their understanding of how the war was fought in the Pacific Theater. US I History students are about to begin the unit on the Civil Rights Movement and will be able to make connections between the past unit on the Civil War and Reconstruction and current day events. World History students have been studying the Enlightenment and will begin studying the Age of Revolutions, focusing on improving their cause and effect understanding skills. All history students will participate in a school wide assembly with guest speaker, Union County Commissioner Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded. Ms. Palmieri-Mouded will be speaking about the importance of being an active citizen in terms of government and students will be able to participate in a question and answer session.

Mathematics:
Students in Consumer Mathematics discussed and learned about different types of investments an individual can make in order to achieve certain financial goals. They also discussed how they would use ‘stimulus money’, and how they want to invest their money in the future. Students learned about the differences between different types of retirement plans, and how companies will create different types of retirement plans to help employees.

Students working in Geometry have been learning about transformations on the Coordinate Plane system. Using

the Smartboard, and the classroom floor, students showed knowledge of transformations including reflections, slides and rotations over different boundaries. Students also spent time examining nature photography to determine if there is symmetry, and to locate the line of symmetry in the photographs.

Finally, students working in Algebra 1 and Algebra 2 continue to utilize graphing calculators to graph inequalities, and to simplify exponent expressions. Students are becoming more comfortable with the commands of the graphing calculator and transferring their knowledge of it to more functions on IXL.com.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

Professional Development:



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Nonpublic Services	Report Date: 1/22/21
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Enrollment:

Current Enrollment as of April 30th:	Acceptances:	N/A
Total Comp Ed Services: 843	Acceptances:	N/A
Total Supplemental Instruction Services: 533	Intakes:	N/A
Total Speech Services: 200	Disenrollments:	N/A

Emergency Drills:

Fire Drill: N/A	Other: N/A
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Curriculum and Instruction:

Nonpublic Department Teachers, Speech Therapists and Child Study Team members continue to provide services to the nonpublic schools in the following districts: Berkeley Heights, Cedar Grove, Clark, Cranford, Elizabeth, Hillside, Kenilworth, New Providence, Plainfield, Roselle, Scotch Plains, Summit, Union and Westfield. The teachers from the Nonpublic Services Department continue to work collaboratively with their peers in the nonpublic school(s) they serve.

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

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

Consultation meetings for 2021-2022 school year for 192/193, IDEA, Nursing, Technology, Textbook, Security and Title I programs continue to be held via Google Hangouts.

Professional Development

The Director and Supervisor are in daily contact with the nonpublic teachers and speech therapists. Google Hangout meetings are scheduled with staff to review COVID 19 updates, student programming and needs. In addition to the scheduled meetings, staff members speak, text, or email the Director and Supervisor daily with questions about instruction/program needs.



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Technology	Report Date: 5/3/21
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Enrollment:

N/A

Emergency Drills:

Fire Drill: N/A	Other: N/A
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Curriculum and Instruction:

Completely retired our initial print server due to severe damage related to a viral attack. We continue to improve the printer infrastructure moving ahead with our newer print server.

Working with the business office and Superintendent’s office to navigate our E-Rate hardware delays due to Suez Canal stoppage by Ever Given blockage.

Working through USAC’s PIA review.

Working with multiple vendors to improve VoIP phone system integration to PA system.

Working with sound vendor to correct issues with sound system in 1571 gymnasium.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

Professional Development:



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Transportation	Report Date: 5/5/21
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Enrollment:	
N/A	
Emergency Drills:	
Fire Drill: N/A	Other: N/A
Curriculum and Instruction:	
<p>An updated estimate of total yearly transportation costs was mailed to all participating districts on April 28, 2021.</p> <p>The cut-off date for the submission of summer school transportation applications was April 23, 2021.</p> <p>The cut-off date for the submission of transportation applications for the 2021-2022 school year is May 28, 2021. Strict adherence to these deadline dates is required. Packets containing all necessary information for the submission of fall applications were emailed to participating districts on April 26, 2021</p> <p>The transportation is in receipt of most of the participating districts ESY transportation applications but are missing some participating districts applications. The transportation department has already started the preparation process in setting up 2021 ESY routes. Routing will begin the week of May 10, 2021. The coordinator will assess the routes to determine if it can be renewed or if it must go to bid. Bidding is to begin at the end of May and continue through mid-June.</p>	
Community Based Instruction and Special Events:	
Professional Development	



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Westlake School	Report Date: April 2021
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Enrollment:	
Current Enrollment: 54 Acceptances: 0	Intakes: 2 Disenrollments: 0
Emergency Drills:	
Fire Drill: (Relaxed Fire Drill) 4/23/21 Cohort A 4/27/21 Cohort B	Other (Lockdown - Internal Threat): 1/22/21 (Cohort A) 1/26/21 (Cohort B)

Curriculum and Instruction:

Mr. Carten's Class:

In both Social Studies and Language Arts students continue to study the 50 states: Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico are among the states currently being reviewed. In Science, students are learning about Africa's animals in the region which includes African Elephant, Giraffe, Cheetahs and Lions. April 22nd was Earth day and our class learned how to be responsible and recycle to keep our environment clean. Mr. Carten has the students participating in research on the internet and he has been incorporating a variety of videos to enhance student learning experiences. The class will be growing plants from seeds and each student will be responsible for caring for their mini garden. On Fridays, Mr. Carten's class continues to do co-op lessons with Mrs. Palmer's class (Food Prep). Students are taught to read recipes, measure ingredients. Due to Covid, Mrs. Palmer presents virtually while Mr. Carten's class is following along in his classroom. With the use of technology, students are able to benefit as if we were all in her class.

Mrs. Convery's Class:

The month of April began with our whole school community wearing new t-shirts to commemorate Autism Awareness Month. Miss Maria and Mrs. Convery delivered the shirts to most of the students in the class who participate in distance learning. It was fantastic to be able to see them in person after so long (masked and socially distanced, of course!). It was also good to see everyone in her class and in the school, wear their t-shirts on April 1st. Even though we all can't be in the same place, we can share the same experience. During morning meeting and math time, it has been gratifying to see how each student has made progress in counting money and making change over the course of the school year. Their study of science has been enhanced by the offerings in Epic Books. The website has books on many levels to choose from. The students have taken turns during our virtual lessons reading aloud books on the planets of Mercury and Earth, as well as Earth Day and recycling. The strangest thing students studied this month was the blobfish. Who knew such a creature existed? After being introduced to this strange animal in an online issue of Scholastic magazine, we just had to have more! The students were fascinated as we read and watched videos about this weird fish. I recommend you Google an image of a blobfish.

Mrs. Fernandez's Class:

In math, students are beginning to use numbers to read, create, and form questions about data from graphs. In Language Arts, students practice receptively and expressively identifying sight words and using them in the context of a lesson and in their environment. Students continue to work on their specific programs, which include identifying community safety signs, utilizing the Edmark reading program, and identifying emotions and actions.

In science, students have been exploring what earth day is and how to make contributions to lessen our carbon footprint and help the environment. Students are learning new questioning techniques as well as working as a group to answer these questions. In social studies, students are learning about goods and services and discussing the differences between needs and wants.

Mrs. Pajewski's Class:

While in the classroom, students focus on their individual levels for math and reading. Math skills have included various levels of matching/counting, addition/subtraction, multiplication, money skills and time. Reading skills have included matching pictures, Edmark 1 & 2, and comprehension skills. Students continue to work with the Digital April Meeting both in class and virtually according to the weekly cohort skill levels. In social studies we have begun to explore our families and focus on our personal information. Our weekly Scholastic topics have included Frogs & Toads and Recycle. This month has also included video, stories (edpuzzlle.com) and a nature walk as we studied about Earth Day. In science we have started a new unit about living and nonliving. Virtual group lessons have included daily Digital Morning Meeting (from TpT), Scholastic magazine (Frogs & Toads, and Recycle) and general math/reading skills (Boom cards, Education.com, liveworksheets). Individual sessions have focused on student individual levels. Overall attendance for most students/families has been good.

Mrs. Palmer's Class:

Students have begun making chocolate candy and filling orders again. The students made Mickey Mouse pops for a little boy's birthday. They are now working on pops for a Communion party. We have also developed two new products. They are chocolate milk balls and Oreo cookie candy balls. The students are happy to be able to make the candy, ribbons and package them again.

During science, students have learned about the African elephant. They completed worksheets on the elephant and watched several videos. This week they are learning about giraffes. In Social Studies, students have studied about the states of Nevada, New Hampshire, and New Jersey. They have made progress in reading and counting money. Two of the students are working on multiplication and division. In Food Science and Food Preparation, the students have made French Toast, pizza and sandwiches. They are also working on food sanitation and safety.

Ms. Porchetta's Class:

This month, students learned about topics associated with the environment. In language arts, they read [Here Comes the Garbage Barge!](#) By Jonah Winter. We followed up by discussing the impact our choices have on the Planet. In social studies, students learned why we recycle and all about Earth Day. Students also reviewed examples of ways to reduce, reuse and recycle. In Health, students listed the 5 food groups and how to construct a healthy plate. The classes' virtual trip to Whole Foods took us to find these items around the perimeter of the store. Students recalled their community trips and tied them into a check out math lesson. Students totaled costs, decided if they had enough money and made change.

Mrs. Robles's Class:

Calendar skills are an integral part of the class daily routine. It helps reinforce counting skills by identifying the date and counting the numbers up to the current date. It also helps reinforce time concepts; what comes before and after. 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. One student works on counting and problem-solving skills and completes an art project using the answers to the problems. Students continue to work on identifying vocabulary words such as food, clothing, everyday objects, and animals. We practice answering Wh questions by playing Wh bingo. The students enjoy watching/listening to a read aloud story and then answering questions about the story. Each day for Social Emotional Learning, the students indicate how s/he is feeling and identify in which Zone that feeling is.

Mrs. Shaw's Class:

In April, the students worked on various spring themed lessons throughout the month including reading stories about various spring stores and discussed what the changes are in the spring season. In Math, the students worked on word problems and learned how to find keywords in order to choose the right operation. In Science, the students worked on the life cycle of plants and planted various seeds. The plants will be given out to the students for their Mother's Day gift next month. The students learned about Ramadan holiday and learned what the traditions are and how to celebrate. This month, the class started our vocational-wood sign making. To celebrate

Save the Elephant Day, the students went on virtual field trips to Turtle Back Zoo and learned about various animals.

Mrs. Swisher's Class:

This month, students have learned about Ramadan and the customs and traditions celebrated during the month. There is a lot of emphasis placed on kindness towards others and self-improvement. SEL activities have focused on the importance of giving. Students completed several activities where we learned how to give gifts that do not cost anything. Some of these gifts included teaching a new skill to another person, giving the gift of time and helping someone in need, helping our families around the house, and sharing a special talent such as drawing a picture or writing a letter. During science the students continue to learn about the solar system. This month they have learned about Earth, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. Students were able to compare and contrast the differences in the planets - the length of a day on other planets compared to one on Earth, rocky vs. gaseous planets, and sizes of our planets. We have been following the updates from the rover Perseverance on the planet Mars. In social studies, we learned about a new city discovered in Egypt - The Lost Golden City of Luxor. Students read an article and watched a video where we discussed the job of an archaeologist and the special tools they used. They also looked at some of the architecture and how it is different from the modern world.

Mrs. Caputo – Art:

Students at Westlake finished up Women's Art History Month by making a mixed media collage inspired by the Phillipine-American Artist, Pacita Abad. They practiced cutting and gluing skills. We talked about shape repetition and concentric circles. They used patterned paper and Oil Pastels. Students then worked on clay hand building techniques. Students reinforced their knowledge of hand forming pinch pots and rolling spheres. They mixed colors with marker and model magic to make Springtime birds' nests with eggs. They collaged a background using cut paper and feathers to make a spot for their nest to sit. Students started off the month of April with a Virtual Lesson extending our Spring Break. Students did a guided drawing of a Caribbean Sunset so we could all visit the beach in our imaginations. This week, students are making rainy drip paintings because "April Showers bring May Flowers".

Mr. Shanfield – Physical Education & Health:

April has been a motivational Month for all of us. The weather is getting nicer and everyone spirits are up as well!! During the month of April, students started using exercise bands to increase strength and overall physical fitness. The students had an opportunity to learn so many amazing functional movements with the bands and as the students became more proficient, they were able to perform at a higher level. This also was amazing to see the students be incredibly successful at using the exercise bands. The students at Westlake are all participating in Physical Education class with a higher level of intensity. What does this mean? The students have become more proficient and stable in their exercises that we are able to run PE as if it were a "Fitness Class" at a gym in the community. This is so important for the students' confidence and abilities to be able to exercise for longer durations of time to help them not only physically, but mentally as well!! SO PROUD OF EVERYONE!!!!!!!!!!

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 shy look like and why being shy has so many amazing and positive qualities.

This month, we have had several more meetings with the local Boy Scouts of America Council to bring back the Boy Scout troop to Westlake and it is progressing wonderfully. We have six volunteers to help us with our Troop as well as 15 students who are now going to be participating as well (Virtually)

This was in my last monthly report and I didn't know any other way to state it so I am going to keep this as is:

As always, I am so proud of EVERYONE, including students, staff, administrators, families, and caregivers for helping these students achieve their maximum potential!!! It is such a pleasure to see everyone every day!!!

Mrs. Sandrock – Social Work Report:

14 IEP and Pre-planning meetings have been held since last report period. As anticipated by administration, sending Districts are requesting an accounting of all related services sessions held this school year as part of an effort to assess student achievement conducted during hybrid instruction due to Covid 19. One "Related Services

COVID Recovery Data” meeting was held, and supportive documentation substantiating participation supplied to the District.

Dr. Amy, consultant psychiatrist, held two virtual parent meetings to review medication management and consult with families requesting her assistance. Her skill set has been very beneficial to students and their parents during these difficult times. Several families have reportedly appreciated the virtual counseling platform, feeling more connected with the school while creating a better understanding of the therapeutic process with their child. In addition, the virtual platform enables face to face contact with families who otherwise have tremendous difficulty traveling to an out of District school meeting due to lack of transportation, time constraints or other responsibilities.

In preparation for a possible Social Work intern, Social Worker attended a 4-hour virtual training for “Advanced Clinical Supervision” on Saturday, April 17th to learn updates to methodology and regulations. Social Worker also updated CPR/AED training on April 20th through RWJ Barnabas Health Mobile Training.

Behavior Department:

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. The AFLS prep and completion for Irvington students, as per district request for information. Assisting teachers with compiling needed information for these upcoming meetings. 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 the behaviorist webpage.

Data collection and analysis on remote lessons to track on-task behavior and to assess student learning has continued. Intensive planning, consulting and modeling behavioral and instructional practices have occurred for many students. The behaviorists continue to create 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 BCBAs. She is also spending half of her time acting as the 1:1 for student AF.

Occupational Therapy:

This month, the OT’s have been excited to welcome more students back to full time in person instructions. They have created new schedules to ensure that all full-time students are seen in person. They continue to provide in person, virtual, and email sessions to our students. The OT’s have incorporated boom cards, Google slides, life skills, and simple recipes into our sessions. They also send home packets to students who do not participate in virtual sessions. We relate therapy to life events by incorporating activities centered on Earth day and other holidays. The OT’s are attending IEP meetings in order to develop appropriate and functional therapy plans and goals. They meet with families in order to collaborate on students/family needs and priorities. They continue to collaborate with teachers to develop the most effective program for each student as we plan for the last making period of 2020-2021.

Physical Therapy:

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. Feuerstein continues 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! Here are a few examples of student successes with teletherapy sessions this month. K.H.’s mother is preparing her for an upcoming orthopedic surgery. We are trying to get K.H. moving as much as possible to allow for a smoother recovery. We have found creative ways to use household items such as shipping boxes and a stepstool to make obstacle courses for K.H. to negotiate. D.V. continues to show outstanding progress despite that fact that he is a fully remote student. 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.

Speech Therapy:

This month in speech, our sessions focused on Spring and spring activities. During in-person sessions, we had classroom egg hunts where students had to find eggs and respond to questions found inside and/or label items found inside. Virtual sessions included Spring would you rather/trivia games and activities that utilized Spring picture scenes to increase utterances. Upon returning from Spring break, activities encouraged conversations about what students did over break and what holidays were celebrated. Sessions also focused on Earth Day and the small steps students can take to help the Earth. They discussed recycling, conserving energy and ways to save water.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:**Mrs. Goodson:**

After Spring break, students continued learning about growth mindset. The characteristics that support and strengthen a person's mindset were introduced using stories of young people who have demonstrated these characteristics in various aspects of their lives. The Epic Books for Kids online reading platform has been an excellent resource. Students read selected stories that focus on one of the following characteristics that support the development of a growth mindset: Perseverance, Problem Solving, Grit, and Teamwork. After reading the first story, students were informed whether their mindset was growth or fixed based on the scores they obtained on their mindset assessments. They were then introduced to self-talk phrases (Self-Talk Phrases for Growth Mindset) that could, with practice, be used to switch back to a growth mindset when they have negative thoughts and are in a fixed mode of thinking.

Autism Awareness:

This month we celebrated autism awareness when Mrs. Convery purchased all students and staff; including the custodians "autism awareness shirts" that we all wore on the same day. Each shirt was specially designed and has Westlake school's name on the sleeve. Staff talked with students in order to discuss autism and engage them in activities in an effort to make them self-aware of this disability.

Creature Comforts Presentation:

An unveiling of our 3 therapy dog portraits that have "crossed the rainbow bridge" was presented to the staff and students in a brief yet touching outdoor ceremony. "Koko, Sawyer and Willy" will be added to our "Pet Wall of Fame" since they have contributed so much love to our school community. Steven Hertz, from Creature Comforts presented two portraits to Administrators, staff and students and everyone was so touched and reminisced about the three therapy dogs and how they will be missed. Students blew bubbles outside in their honor.

Earth Day:

For Earth Day, the students studied the process of recycling from curb to new products. They read books and saw videos about what goes on in a recycling plant. It was interesting to watch how the recyclables get sorted as they travel down the belt. The students also went shopping for products made from recyclable materials in their math class.

Professional Development:

This month the staff reviewed student attendance procedures and the accuracy of inputting attendance into PowerSchool since remote learning, hybrid and student participation is different this school year.



**Union County Educational Services Commission
Superintendent Report**

School/Department: Work Readiness Academy	Report Date: 4/30/21
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Enrollment:

Current Enrollment: 22 (includes WRA & Project SEARCH) Acceptances: 0	Intakes: 4 (4 accepted for SY 2021-22) Disenrollments: 0
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Emergency Drills:

Fire Drill: 4/29/21	Other (Specify Type):
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Curriculum and Instruction:

The Work Readiness Academy programs spent the majority of the month of April 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 one week following the district’s Spring recess.

The WRA program was pleased to accommodate two additional students who requested to transition from Full-Remote to our Hybrid Learning model.

Also this month, the Project SEARCH program at Overlook Medical Center shifted the number of “in person” learning days at the hospital from 4 to 5 days. This allows all of the interns to attend daily and maximize their participation and training at their internship experiences in various departments around the hospital.

Highlights from the instructional learning program this month included:

- **Social Autopsy**
 - Our programs began using this problem-solving strategy designed to support social skills. The social autopsy helps individuals understand social errors committed during social interactions and promotes choosing alternative solutions to correct those errors in the future. The goal of the social autopsy is twofold: (a) to help the individual better understand a social situation, and (b) to assist the individual in responding more effectively when similar situations are encountered.
- **Effective Cover Letters**
 - Students learned how to compose effective cover letters to submit along with their resumes as part of their application packet.
- **Job Search Resources**
 - Students learned about various online resources they can use to conduct a local job search including indeed.com, flexjobs.com, and snagajob.com.
 - They also learned how to use filters to narrow their search based on location, keywords, experience, and date posted.

Community Based Instruction and Special Events:

Students in the Project SEARCH program started their 2nd internship rotations this month. Due to the pandemic, the students will only be able to complete two rotations this year instead of three. The program added new internship experiences with the Nursing Administration Office and the Pastoral Care Office.

In the absence of traditional Structured Learning Experiences and Community-Based Internship, students in the Work Readiness Academy continue to participate in our *"In House" internship experiences*. Students rotate through one or more of our simulated "in house" work experiences that include learning and developing clerical skills, customer service skills, food service skills, and general cleaning & hospitality skills. Students get the chance to participate in an internship for approximately 60 minutes, 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.

The program has partnered with the New Jersey Sharing Network to help fulfill orders for bundled promotional items including pens, wristbands, and notepads.

Also, this month we recognized Earth Day on April 22nd by discussing single-use plastics and recycling.

Professional Development:

Staff received updated training and guidance related to supporting students with Epilepsy and Seizure disorders. PLCs are working on identifying e-learning resources that were used this year that might be helpful to continue using next school year. They are also discussing how to safely "re-launch" community based SLE experiences beginning this summer during our ESY program.