

**RSU #16 School Board
Administrative Report
Shawn Vincent
Principal, Bruce M. Whittier Middle School
February 5, 2018**

Staffing

- Nothing to report at this time

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- In January, we used professional development time to get subject areas together to focus on common assessments. In recent years, we have invested a lot of time in establishing essential standards in each subject and developing common curriculum. The work on common assessments will ensure that students are being held to the same standards, regardless of who their teachers are. The collaborative work also improves the communication amongst staff. We also used time for grade level teams to discuss student interventions, committee work, and a teacher evaluation and professional growth review.
- Students participated in the Maine Suicide Prevention Program during the last two weeks of January. School Counselor Bonnie Robbins and Wellness teacher Kim Yorkey provided the lessons following their own training at the state level. The main purposes of the lessons were to help students understand depression and anxiety, provide suicide prevention information, and learn how to help a friend they may be worried about. Parents were notified about the developmentally appropriate lessons in advance.
- The Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS) Committee recently completed a student survey to learn about how students feel about school. The survey results were positive, but they led to more questions. We followed up with a second survey to dig deeper. We learned that 89.7% of students believe the staff at Whittier Middle School cares about them and wants the best for all students. When asked if teachers treat students with kindness and respect, 74.3% agreed, 21% had a neutral response, and 4.7% disagreed. Students felt the most effective way to respond to student behavior is for the teacher to ask the student to step into the hallway for a conversation. We were surprised to see that the most common challenge to their learning, as identified by students, was that students don't ask for help when they need it. When asked if students treat each other with kindness and respect, 36.1% agreed, 44.6% had a neutral response, and 19.3% disagreed. This is certainly an area that we will continue to work to improve.

Events

- Whittier History Day is Wednesday, February 14th. We still need judges, and you do not need experience or knowledge connected to history. Training will be provided. If you are interested, call 998-3462 or email Logan Landry (llandry@rsu16.org). We will host an Open House to look at projects from 8:15-9:30 on the 14th.
- On January 24th, RSU 16 students competed in the Optimist Club Oratorical Contest. In the contest, students had to write and present a speech. Eighth grader Emma Bunyea and seventh grader Nolan Greenwald tied for first place. Seventh grader Ben Cushman finished in second place. Emma and Nolan will now go on to compete at the next level in New York.

Facilities: Nothing to report at this time