

Principal's Report: August 2024

Bethlehem Elementary School

Issues to Bring to the Board:

1. Installing a 100-amp service pole for the greenhouse.
2. A new gear shed for outdoor equipment, in collaboration with Bike the North Country, could be located near the greenhouse. This will provide opportunities for students and the community to check out bikes, snowshoes, and other outdoor gear.

<https://bikethenorthcountry.com/>

<https://thegearlibrarynh.org/>

SAU35-Wide Goals

Focus Area 1: Serve All Students to Ensure Academic Achievement by Fostering the Development of the Whole Student

We are committed to meeting the academic needs of all students through strategic staffing and programming adjustments. For the 2024-2025 school year, we have prioritized certification requirements to comply with state standards:

- **New Staff Members:**
 - **Stephan Shapiro** has joined us as the new Library/Media/Enrichment Specialist. He is a certified teacher and is working on completing his Library Media Specialist (LMS) certification. He will be mentored by a Certified LMS from Profile.
 - **Amy Turner** has been hired as our art teacher, working three days a week to ensure that our art curriculum remains compliant.
 - **Kendal Choate** has been brought on to teach fourth grade.
- **Mental Health and Behavioral Support:**
 - To improve student outcomes, we are restructuring our counseling services. We aim to reduce Tier 1 guidance by 50%, allowing for more targeted Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions. This restructuring will be complemented by a new schedule that incorporates health classes and mentoring time while maintaining planning time for teachers. Additionally, we are working with **Ben Woo** to bring him back for one day a week for student services.
- **Curriculum Alignment:**

- We are aligning our school curriculum with state standards across all subject areas and integrating Project-Based Learning (PBL). We are also implementing a student support center as an alternative learning and break room for students. MTSS-B strategies will include Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and Responsive Classroom techniques to create a supportive and inclusive learning environment for all students.

Focus Area 2: Build Culture to Create Safe, Positive, and Inclusive Environments for Students, Staff, Faculty, Parents, and Community

Our focus on building a strong school culture continues with the development of our infrastructure and resources:

- **Infrastructure Projects:**
 - We are rebuilding our school library/ media space, despite setbacks in grant funding for recarpeting.
 - We are addressing playground erosion caused by solar electrical work, renovating the elevator, and preparing for a new server installation in the boiler room.

Focus Area 3: Lead with Integrity and Courage, Improving Consistency in Collaboration, Communication, Expectations, and Accountability

Effective communication and collaboration are critical to our success this school year:

- **Technology and Resources:**
 - We have submitted a Title II grant for technology training to equip our new enrichment hire with the necessary skills to support school operations.
- **School and Teacher Goals:**
 - Bethlehem Elementary School is actively working on aligning both school-wide and individual teacher goals with the broader SAU goals. Communication will be one of our goals. Our staff is engaged in prioritizing these goals as we develop our five-year strategic plan.
 - We are focusing on creating actionable objectives that are connected to our SAU35 goals, fostering a cohesive approach to achieving academic excellence, supporting the whole student, and building a positive school culture.

2023-2024 Bethlehem Elementary School Fall to Spring Benchmark Growth Comparison

AIMSweb+- Computer adaptive assessment used to determine student academic progress and inform instruction. **This test is not timed.** It is important to keep in mind that we are not always comparing the same students when looking at results due to students moving and out of the district.

- **Proficiency** equals the percentage of students in the same grade (nationally) who scored proficient or above in the given assessment category using a **30% cut off**.
- There are five performance levels in AIMSweb+. **Well Below Average, Below Average, Average, Above Average, Well Above Average.** Using their scores, students are grouped as high risk, moderate risk or low risk.

2023-2024 Grade	Math Fall Proficiency	Math Winter Proficiency	Math Spring	Read Fall Proficiency	Read Winter Proficiency	Reading Spring
Kindergarten	32%	48%	46%	38%	20%	26%
First	41%	67%	64%	33%	44%	65%
Second	48%	66%	60%	70%	68%	72%
Third	57%	53%	64%	57%	54%	50%
Fourth	45%	57%	85%	73%	75%	75%
Fifth	57%	57%	84%	64%	72%	75%
Sixth	69%	76%	85%	71%	73%	77%
Summary	50%	61%	70%	58%	58%	63%

State Assessments (2023-2024):

Math Scores:

- Grade 3: 61%
- Grade 4: 55%
- Grade 5: 69% (Science: 77%)
- Grade 6: 77%

ELA Scores:

- Grade 3: 58%
- Grade 4: 70%
- Grade 5: 92%
- Grade 6: 75%

This report highlights our commitment to serving all students, fostering a positive school culture, and leading with integrity as we navigate the 2024-2025 school year at Bethlehem Elementary School.