

PARENT VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

CURRENT DISTRICT INITIATIVES

Voorhees Township Public Schools

Dr. Neely Hackett

Superintendent

October 25, 2023

INITIATIVES

1. Spanish Instruction
2. Elementary Advanced Mathematics
3. Middle School Rutgers Math Program
4. Special Education
5. English as a Second Language
6. Intervention Programs
7. District Safety/Buildings and Grounds
8. Preschool Program
9. Instructional Coaches
10. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee

SPANISH INSTRUCTION



SPANISH INSTRUCTION

- Pacing Guides have been written for grades K to 5
- Nine lessons per marking period (36 lessons in total) have been written for grades K, 1, and 2 and instruction is delivered by the homeroom teacher
- Instruction for students in grades 3, 4, and 5 is delivered by a certified teacher of Spanish
 - 30 minutes a week for grade 3
 - 40 minutes a week for grades 4 and 5

SPANISH INSTRUCTION

Future Planning

- Revise pacing guides for middle school
- Students will enter middle school with advanced spanish language skills
- Students can graduate Eastern High School with the Seal of Biliteracy Endorsement



SPANISH INSTRUCTION

Seal of Biliteracy Endorsement

The New Jersey State Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in at least one language in addition to English by high school graduation. Students must pass a state-approved assessment.

This designation on a student's high school diploma provides employers and universities with a method of identifying bilingual candidates, students with 21st century skills, and those who have prioritized the study of other languages and cultures.

ELEMENTARY ADVANCED MATHEMATICS

Tangent

Exponents

parallelogram

Algebra

hexagon

Geometry

Addition

Multiplication

sine

Fractions

Mathematics

Derivatives

Division

Subtraction

Calculus

Trigonometry

cotangent

Functions

cosine

cube

ELEMENTARY ADVANCED MATHEMATICS

- Available to students in grades 4 and 5.
- One teacher per grade-level teaches the advanced math class
- Students travel for math instruction
- Enrichment Program teachers provide both in-class support and pull out support
- Selection criteria was established in the spring of 2023. We will revisit this criteria in the spring of 2024.

ELEMENTARY ADVANCED MATHEMATICS

- Curriculum was developed in the summer of 2023
- Curriculum includes grade level standards using a high-level of rigor
- Curriculum infuses standards for the next grade level

ELEMENTARY ADVANCED MATHEMATICS

Future Planning

- Students who are successful in the program, will be challenged to take Algebra I as a 7th grader and Geometry as an 8th grader.
- We are working with Eastern to coordinate Algebra I instruction. We will do the same for Geometry.
- The goal is for students to graduate high school having taken AP courses.

QUESTIONS



Spanish
Instruction

Elementary
Advanced
Mathematics

MIDDLE SCHOOL RUTGERS MATHEMATICS PROGRAM

- Criteria was established in the spring of 2023 to select 30 students to participate in this program.
- 30 Students entering grade 8 in September 2023, attended a four-day summer program at Rutgers University.



MIDDLE SCHOOL RUTGERS MATHEMATICS PROGRAM

Summer Courses

- Joy of Math: Explain mathematical ideas with abundance of examples, hands-on activities, images and clips.
- Math and Music: Introduce students to rich connections between mathematics and music.
- Geometry and Imagination: Introduce students to the fascinating world of geometry with images.
- Financial Mathematics: Introduce students to the mathematics behind investing, interest, saving for retirement, and more.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RUTGERS MATHEMATICS PROGRAM

2023-2024 Program

November 17, 2023

- Creating Equations
- Interpreting Functions
- Linear, Quadratic, and Exponential Models

January 26, 2024

- Interpreting Functions
- Building Functions
- Linear, Quadratic, and Exponential Models

February 23, 2024

- Creating Equations
- Reasoning with Equations and Inequalities

March 22, 2024 and April 26, 2024

- The Real Number System
- Seeing Structure in Expressions
- Interpreting Functions
- Building Functions



SPECIAL EDUCATION

As of 10/1/2023

- Number of students receiving special education services: 415 (419) -4
- Pending special education referrals: 20 (19) +1
- Number of students receiving speech only services: 151 (133) +18 We hired an additional speech therapist and converted a part-time position into a full-time position
- Pending speech only referrals: 1 (0) +1

*The number in the parenthesis indicates 2022-2023 enrollment

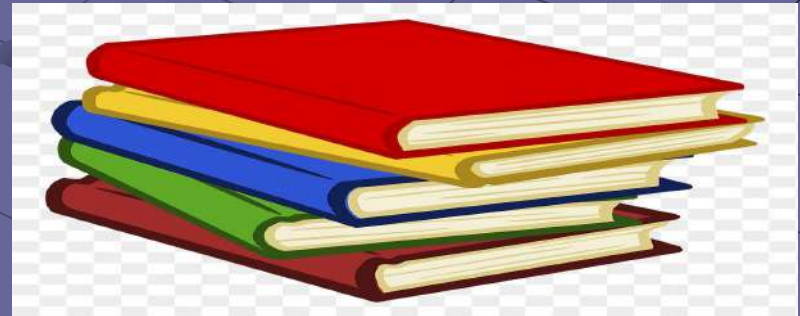
Programs

In-Class Support, Resource Room, LLD Self-Contained, and Autism Self-Contained

A full-time Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and Occupational Therapist (OT) were hired this year. We now have 1.8 BCBAs and 3 OTs in the district.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Streamlined Case Management
- Special Education Lead Teachers
- Static Communication Boards and VTPD Partnership
- Wellness Interagency Network (WIN) Mental Health Grant
- Inclusion Coaching by Toby Karten (Inclusion Facilitator)
- Inspired Instruction support for Resource Room teachers



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Child Study Team Responsibilities

- Support teachers, administrators, and instructional associates
- Classroom observation of students on their caseload
- Writing reports, IEPs and holding/attending IEP meetings
- Provide School Based Counseling
- Related Services (OT, PT, Speech) provide school based therapy in their discipline
- Testing in their specific discipline

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Lead Teachers

(Resource Room, LLD Self-Contained, and Autism Self-Contained)

- Support Curriculum and Resource Implementation
- Executive Functioning Classes at Middle School
- Inclusive Buddy Day
- Buddy Program
- Expanded Community Based Instructional Trips



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Static Communication Board



SPECIAL EDUCATION

WIN Grant

School Clearances, In-School Support (including an on-site therapist for in-school counseling two days per week-one day at Osage and one day at VMS), and Professional Development on identifying and addressing mental health concerns

The district submitted an interest application for the WIN. We had an in-person interview with representatives of the Camden County Educational Services Commission. We received an email on April 26, 2023, announcing that we had been selected. The Board officially approved this partnership at the May 3, 2023, Board Meeting.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Inclusion Co-teaching Coaching:

Toby Karten, Inclusion facilitator has been working with elementary co-teaching pairs both in person and virtually for coaching. Ms Karten provides the teachers with skills and strategies to implement as well as provides resources regarding best practices in co-teaching. Co-teaching models are discussed and modeled for the pairs as well.

Resource Room Coaching:

Inspired Instruction is working with all Elementary and Middle School Resource Room teachers on differentiation, NJSLA supports, building student stamina, student independence and scaffolding, as well as reflections on student data.

QUESTIONS



Middle School
Rutgers Math
Program

Special
Education

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

- Students are considered Multilingual Learners rather than English Language Learners (ELLs) effective August 2023
- WE hired an additional ESL teacher resulting in one ESL teacher assigned to each school.
- The ESL teacher assigned to Signal Hill conducts all district placement testing and works with our preschool teachers

INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

1. Response to Intervention (RTI)
2. Basic Skills Instruction (ELA and Math)
3. Reading Specialist
4. Tutoring (before and after school)
5. Differentiated and Small Group Instruction



DISTRICT SAFETY/BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

1. The Supervisor of Special Projects serves as the District Safety Specialist
2. We annually consult with VTPD on safety measures and the District's Emergency Manual
3. A Security Camera Audit was conducted in the spring of 2023
4. A Key Fob system currently being installed
5. Assisted the preschool provider sites with the creation of their Emergency Manuals
6. Assisted the preschool provider sites with implementing safety measures within their respective buildings

DISTRICT SAFETY/BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Summer Projects

- Keyless door entry system throughout the District
- Safety film on glass for door entrances
- Pruning and landscaping
- On-going flooring replacement
- Ongoing window replacement
- On-going door replacement
- Ongoing LED lighting replacement
- Media Center renovation at Kresson Elementary School
- Replacement of nine HVAC classroom units at VMS
- Renovation of seven restrooms at VMS
- Renovation of two restrooms at the Administration Building
- Continued work to move forward with the building at 250 Haddonfield-Berlin Road, Gibbsboro

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

1. We currently have the following inclusion classes

Kresson	4
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Fervent Beginnings	3
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One Step at a Time	2
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Today's Learning Center	4
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2. We also have 4 self-contained Preschool Disability Classrooms at Kresson

3. We are awaiting NJDOE approval to purchase a building in Gibbsboro that will eventually have 24 classrooms (5 will be assigned to the Gibbsboro Board of Education)

QUESTIONS



ESL Program

Intervention
Programs

District

Safety/Buildings
and Grounds

Preschool Program

INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES

Two Instructional Coaches were hired this year

1. Visit teachers and offer support. Work closely with new teachers.
2. Conduct focused walkthroughs (district initiatives) and provide support when necessary.
3. Support small group instruction with resources.
4. Analyze data to inform instruction. (iReady, NJSLA, district/weekly assessments).
5. Conduct PLC meetings after school on specific topics related to small group ELA and Mathematics instruction.
6. Address student engagement, rigor, higher order thinking and questioning, and math problem solving.
7. Use the Atlas Program as a resource to guide instructional timelines.
8. Provide professional development during staff meetings.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI) COMMITTEE

The DEI committee was formed late last school year. The purpose of the committee was originally to centralize our conversations around meeting and understanding the needs of our students from many different cultures, and in particular to make sure we had a solid understanding of the cultural and religious holidays observed by our community members.

There was significant staff interest in the committee, and the committee's discussions now cover curriculum, website/communication, professional development, and community outreach.

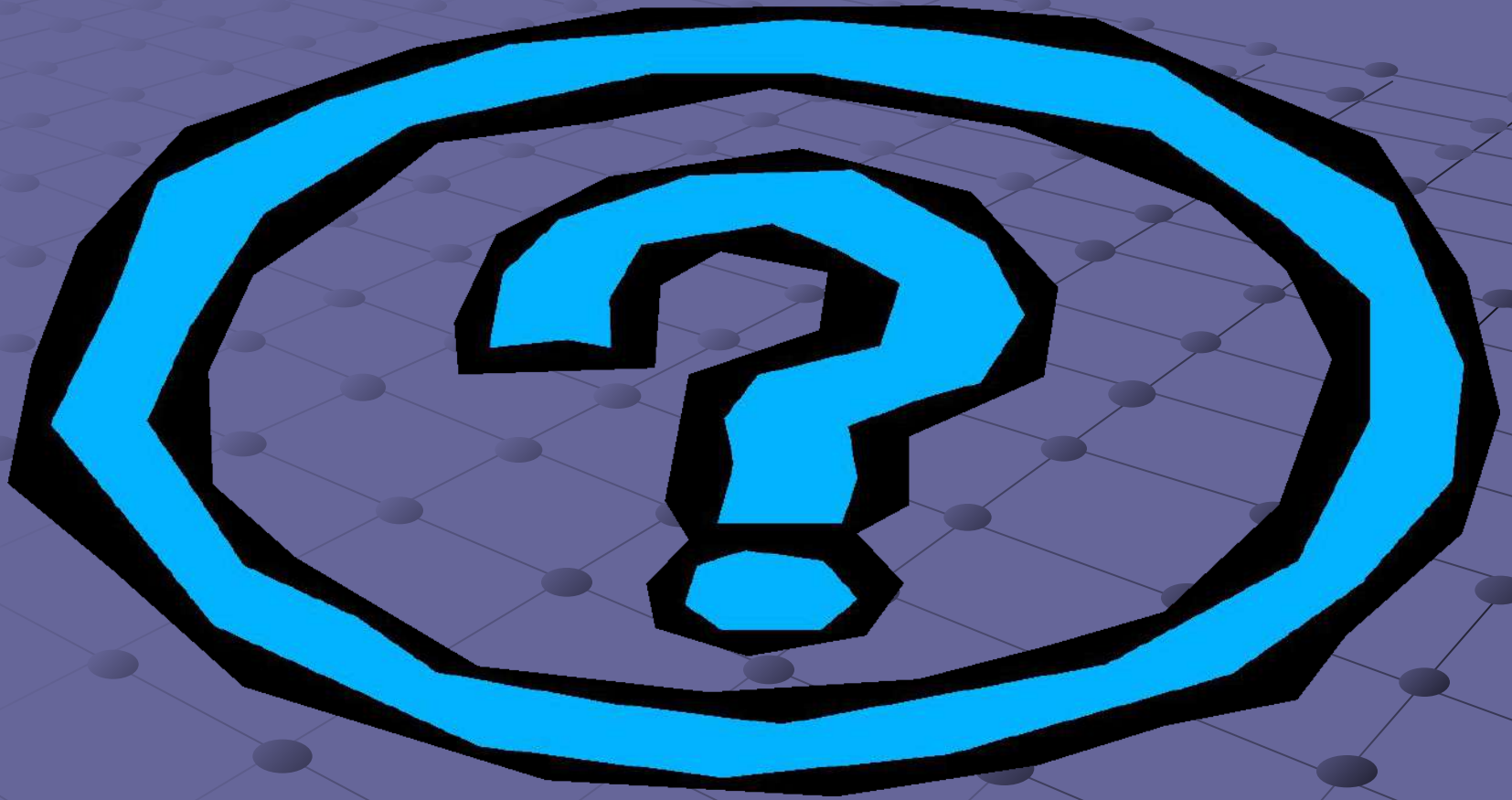
DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI) COMMITTEE

The DEI Committee has defined the following goals:

1. Awareness and celebration of cultural differences
2. Share our inclusiveness with the community
3. Diversity of staff
4. Reach all student populations (race, gender, academic ability, special education, multilingual learners)
5. Publication of cultural events

Effective November 1st, the DEI Committee will send a monthly reminder of the celebrations for the month to assist with acknowledging and celebrating our students and staff.

QUESTIONS



A large, red, rectangular stamp with a double border is tilted diagonally across the frame. The words 'THANK YOU' are written in a bold, red, sans-serif font within the stamp. The background is a solid blue color with a subtle grid pattern of small, dark blue dots connected by thin lines.

THANK YOU