

Cascade Brook School
September 2023
Nichole Goodspeed, Principal

New Staff to CBS

We welcome our new staff this year:

Samantha Archard, 4th gr. Teacher, *Cynthia Delarma*, 4th gr. Long Term Sub, *Michael Hoefft* - SLP Provider, *Dan Simons*-Long Term Sub -Orchestra,*Jordan Witham*-Custodian,*Molly Gurney*-3rd grade teacher, *Erin Simpson*-Ed Tech Adaptive Skills Program, *Sara Nye*-Ed Tech Day Treatment Program,

We also have two staff members who have new positions at CBS this year: *Sarah Reynolds*-Math Interventionist and *Katie Founier*-PAL Social Worker

First Days of School

Our first week of school went very well. We had a great turnout for our Open House and the staff, students and families are excited to start the new school year.



Programming/Instruction Updates

As a result of a review of district needs and assessment data, we have decreased our Title 1 math support from 2 interventionists to 1.5 interventionists but increased our literacy support from 1 interventionist to 1.8 interventionists. These changes should help us better meet the needs of our struggling students and provide more coaching and professional development opportunities for teachers.

We are also implementing a new phonics program *From Phonics to Reading* by Sadlier for all third grade students with supplement support materials for 4th and 5th grade students to be included soon. Also, we are going to utilize new science materials from *Mystery Science* for all grade levels to support more hands-on instruction in Science.

We are going to incorporate less technology this year due to a decrease in 1:1 ipad access for 3rd and 4th grade students this year in favor of more face to face instruction and interactions. This change will require a little more coordination to complete required Fall and Spring State testing.

We are also excited to be implementing BARR with our 4th grade students. We have two days of professional development happening in September for several staff members.

Assessments/Data

Our Attendance (ADA) improved from 89% in FY 22 to 92% in FY 23. We are developing strategies to support our district goal of reducing the percentage of students who are chronically absent by 50% during the 2023-24 school year.

Our Math NWEA results showed an increase in proficient students from 47.5% in Spring 2022 to 51% in Spring 2023. Our Reading NWEA showed an increase of students meeting proficiency slightly increased from 55% in Spring 2022 to 56% in Spring 2023. The Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) scores showed an increase of students meeting District level benchmarks from 67.5% in June 2022 to 71% in June 2023.

Facility updates

Thank you to our amazing custodians, Lenny, Nancy, Kathy, Sage, Greg, Jordan, Alice and Val for cleaning and preparing our school for a new year.



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Our students and staff in Extended School Year worked with Laura Hoeft to water the garden and pick the ripe vegetables/fruit this summer. We had lettuce, potatoes, beans, carrots, blueberries, and tomatoes grow despite the deer snacking.

Thank you to Chef Andy and David Cardinale for updating our cafeteria this summer. We have new furniture, new blue and gold paint, and new decals emphasizing R2S1. The cafeteria looks amazing.



Thank you the Mt. Blue Maintenance Crew for putting roof on Outdoor Patio structure and moving our office door to improve security and traffic flow in the hallway. Thank you Suzie for painting the office and office hallway.



We have new swings, a new climbing wall, new steps for the sliders and a new musical chimes on the playground. Thank you Mike Turner and your crew for making this happen with ESSER funds.



Current Challenges and Concerns

- We are still looking for a school counselor but we have a Social Worker who will work with students.
- Our enrollment has decreased slightly.
- PBIS - We are refocusing our Tier I framework of teaching school and classroom expectations.
- Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy is still a huge concern and we have been identified as Tier I by the Maine Dept. of Education.
- We know that finding enough substitutes to cover daily staffing needs will be difficult this year.