

**RSU #16 School Board
Administrative Report
Shawn Vincent
Principal, Bruce M. Whittier Middle School
April 4, 2022**

Staff

- Kudos to the Whittier Middle School teaching staff for their willingness and effort in covering additional classes in recent weeks. Substitute teachers have been hard to come by, so our administrative assistant puts out a call for coverage each morning. Teachers regularly give up their prep periods to make sure we do not need to pull ed techs from their assignments. The staff's team-minded approach is a great model for our students.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- School Counselor Bonnie Robbins met with all students to teach a lesson about stress, anxiety and depression and the effects they have on our mental and physical health. Students learned about positive coping skills versus negative ones. They also talked about how our brain is affected and why. Students were provided with ways to support a friend in need and resources they can access.
- State 8th grade science testing will begin during the first week of May. Students will complete the science tests in their science classes. Reading, language and math testing will take place during the week of May 9th.

Events

- Holocaust survivor Rudolph "Rudy" Horowitz will speak to our 8th graders on Friday, April 8th. His book "Avoiding the Cracks," was written as a series of letters addressed to his grandchildren. The book explains how his family, from Poland, was able to beat the odds and survive the Holocaust. We are very excited for this rare and wonderful experience.
- A video created by team of 8th grade Whittier GaTE students was selected as a winner in the 9th Annual New York Times Vocabulary Video Contest. Student teams across the nation were invited to select one word from a NY Times 'word of the day' list and create a 15 second video to help viewers understand the word. The Whittier team chose the word *Rendezvous*. The final video was one of 13 that were selected out of nearly 1500 submitted. Congratulations to Nora Thornton, Ada Stenhouse, Reilly Sullivan, Tavon Montanez and Ethan Castonguay.
- David Crump placed 5th for his individual scores on Arithmetic and Geometry during the Southern Maine Math Meet in March. He faithfully attends Math Club each Thursday after school and works diligently on learning and practicing how to solve the problems. He is very deserving of this, and we are pleased to see his hard work pay off.
- Spring sports start today. Students may participate in baseball, softball, track and field or lacrosse.
- We have four students who will participate in the District II Honors Jazz Festival on April 26-27 at Greely High School. Congratulations to Eli Culleton, Kaleb Christner, Cameron Cunningham and Oscar Horowitz.
- We are happy to bring back some in-person events this year. On April 14th at 7:00pm, we will have our school play, *Search for Intelligent Life*. On May 6th and 20th, we will have our first school dances in about two years.