

**RSU #16 School Board  
Administrative Report  
Shawn Vincent  
Principal, Bruce M. Whittier Middle School  
September 27, 2022**

**Staff**

- Chris Frazier has returned to RSU 16 and is teaching 7th grade social studies. She retired several years ago from Elm Street School, but she is excited to be back working with students again.
- We look forward to finalizing a contract with Martha Stone to serve as school counselor. Martha has over 40 years of experience as a school counselor and is eager to bring her expertise to Whittier. We expect to have Martha at Whittier part-time.

**Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment**

- Lewiston Regional Technical Center (LRTC) invited our middle school to participate in a mentor program. We were allotted 15 spots for the first semester in a variety of programs, including plumbing, medical science, multimedia, criminal justice, and automotive. Select eighth graders will visit LRTC every other Friday and shadow a high school student in the program. In the second semester, we will have a few additional spots available and offer the opportunity to another group of students. We are pleased to get kids connected with learning that matches their career interests.
- We are continuing with our BARR (Building Assets, Reducing Risks) program at Whittier. All students have been assigned a BARR case manager. They have access to their case manager daily during academic support. Each week their team of teachers meet in block meetings to discuss all students on their team and make plans to support students as necessary. BARR also includes I-time lessons, which are completed each week with the students. The term I-time is used because these sessions focus on students learning more about themselves and building personal strengths.
- Students were introduced to our online gradebook and login information was included in our most recent newsletter to get parents connected as well.
- Eighth graders practiced calculating density with each other through the age-old tradition of the Density Dunk. Many of us remember the experience from our junior high school days. We always find willing volunteers to dip themselves in the tank.

**Events**

- For a week, Whittier Middle School reached the top of the leaderboard for the WinterKids grant. However, it is looking more likely that we will finish in second place as Noble Middle School has suddenly surged ahead with a large number of votes. The voting ends September 30.
- Clubs are starting to open up for student participation. The Green Team met twice. The Student Council is up and running, and the Writing Club will start next week.
- Students did a fantastic job in our first full fire drill evacuation; it may have been one of our best ever. The alarm went off, and students moved quickly, quietly, and safely to the doors. They lined up silently and waited for instruction. We were able to return to the building in a timely manner.