

CONCORD SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - Julie Donahue, Concord Principal

It has been a year of great change and progress here at Concord School. Though we know the town and students have definitely mourned the closure of our PK-12 school, we who remain have tried our best to move on despite this enormous change in our demographic and culture. Our summer was busy, as we did a lot of inventory and moving of classrooms. We were able to stop using the trailer altogether, and look forward to moving it off campus to create room for our garden project. We were moved the art and music room to the back of the school, and the library to the second floor. Our nurse has a new and improved space, and our elementary special education room is in a larger room, as is the 4th grade room. We have carpeted some more classrooms, and provided our gymnasium floor the TLC it deserves. Our dedicated paras finally have a lunch spot of their own, as well. We also appreciate our maintenance team, Mr. Fisher and Mrs. Welch, for their dedication to our physical plant. Our busy summer was also highlighted with Summer Learning Academy, where we had the pleasure of inviting Waterford Elementary students. It was our best summer yet, as some weeks had as many as 62 learners!

We were very proud to hire some incredible additions to our already phenomenal faculty and staff. Mr. Preston Ingram - PE teacher and Athletic Director, Mr. Dan Hubacz - middle school science teacher, Mrs. Lisa Burbach - behavior specialist, and finally, Kerin Schmid - guidance counselor. We have a new staff member in Kay Wooten, our administrative assistant. They join an incredible group of veteran staff who are leading the way in the progress of our wonderful school. Our school continues to be a safe, welcoming place to be – with a focus on safety, responsibility, and respect. Our discipline issues are at an all-time low (during my 4.5 years here), and I am sure that this is due to the consistency with our staff and students surrounding behavior.

We have had a very exciting year of super positive initiatives at school this year. We have had a yearlong focus on South America, and specifically, Brazil, for our multicultural yearlong theme. The students spent the first trimester studying the ecosystems of Brazil, and learned a great deal about the rainforests. Second semester is spent studying the culture of Brazil, culminating in a weeklong Multicultural Fair with a total arts immersion. Students will be taught Brazilian Dance, listen to the Brazilian Music of the Burlington band Sambuticada, and learning Capoeira, the Brazilian Martial Art! Our performance is on February 18th, and we hope many townspeople will come. We are hoping for good weather so we can parade through town in the traditional of Carnivale! We will finish the year with two additional exciting Brazilian events: The Concord Olympics and the Concord Marketplace to help students study the economy. The entire school will be putting on the play *Peter Pan* this spring! These total school events really help to set the culture of our school, and we are super proud to have all staff, teachers, and students involved. These are really the capstones to our rigorous academic program – all students are making tremendous progress in literacy and math, and we are adding some great new science standards to our program, as well. Students will truly be well-rounded learners when they graduate from 8th grade.

We appreciate all who have helped to make our year so successful – the staff at ECSU, the school board, the Alumni Association, and the Booster Club – we say thank you. I so appreciate our faculty, staff, students, parents, and community. Our school continues to grow and prosper, and I am so proud to be a part of it.