

**Assistant Superintendent Report**  
**Region One Schools**  
**May 2019**

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**Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment**

Visitors from China - Region One families will be hosting seventeen sixth grade students from China from May 11-June 8. The students are from the [Jianhua Experimental School](#) in Beijing and they will be visiting our schools in Cornwall, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon. Home stays with families have been arranged for period of one, two or four weeks. The Chinese are paying \$2000 per student. These funds are being shared with host families (\$500/student/week) to cover additional expenses incurred while the students are here. The group will be accompanied by two chaperones. Many thanks to our families and schools for welcoming our friends from China. Please watch school Tweets and Facebook pages for news about the visit.

Smarter Balanced and NGSS Assessments - All grade 3-8 students will be taking the Smarter Balanced tests and grades 5, 8 and 11 will be taking the NGSS test. The testing window extends from April 24-May 14.

Math Instruction - Based on the feedback shared by the Kent and Cornwall teachers and administrators, a team of principals and teachers from Sharon, Salisbury Central and Lee H. Kellogg will visit will the Lake Garda school in Burlington, CT in late May. This group will meet with Brennan Glasgow, the Math and Science Coordinator, to discuss their experience with the [Bridges](#) math program. This group will also have the opportunity to observe classrooms and talk to teachers.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) - The SEL task force met for the first time this month. The group discussed the expectations for Region One students with regard to the development of their social and emotional awareness by the time they graduate from HVRHS. We then discussed the programs in place to ensure the achievement of those expected outcomes. After some discussion of the gap between what we expect of our students and what the current practices throughout the Region can support, the group agreed to conduct additional research and to visit some other schools to discuss their practices in the area of social and emotional learning. The information gathered from these efforts will help to decide the next steps and to plan professional learning.

Human Trafficking

The school counselors and the school psychologists met to discuss the final plans for the introduction of this new curriculum to all schools in Region One next year. The school counselors from the Pre-K-8 schools will be teaching a program called [LOVE146](#) to students in seventh and eighth grade. The counselors will be trained in this program next fall in order to be able to provide instruction to students during the second half of the school year. We have also agreed to contact The Women's Support Services organization so that they can provide our counselors with a co-teacher who has been trained to use this program. The High School will be using a program that has been developed by Global Village Media to teach students in ninth and tenth grade.

The Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) will be sending representatives to make presentations to all of our staff as well as our parent community in the fall to prepare them for the information that will be shared with our students.

**Professional Learning**

**School Counselor PLC** - The School Counselors met as a PLC for the first time this month. They agreed that it is useful for them to get together as a group to share information about their practice and to discuss their professional learning needs. They also felt that these meeting are an effective way for the elementary school counselors to share information with the High School counselors. We will meet one more time before the end of the school year.

**Personalized Learning** - Bena Kallick and Allison Zmuda met with all of the principals to discuss the next steps in professional learning in this area. The group agreed that it would be most efficient and effective to use a combination of on-site observation and video conferencing with Bena and Allison based on the needs of each school. We also agreed that the coaches need to spend some time with them to develop a deeper understanding of the coaching points so that they can better support teachers in their classrooms.

**Next Generation Science Standards** - The NGSS Steering Committee met for the first time this month. The group reflected on the professional learning sessions that took place earlier this year. We also discussed the plans for NGSS instruction and professional learning for next year.

**Staffing for 2018-19**

We are making progress on filling the open positions for 2019-2020.

School	Positions	Status
Cornwall	ELA	Interviewing candidates
HVRHS	AgEd - 2 FTE Math/Business Ed - 1 FTE	AgEd - Positions filled Math/Business - Posted
Kellogg	PE - .5 FTE Music - .5 FTE	PE - Interviews scheduled Music - Posted
Kent	Middle School Math - 1 FTE	Interviewing candidates
NCES	Fourth Grade Teacher - 1 FTE	Interviewing candidates
Salisbury	5th Grade ELA - 1 long term sub	Position filled
Sharon	Middle School ELA - 1 FTE Library Media Specialist-1 FTE	Interviewing candidates for each position

### Career/Work Experience Program

Dr. O'Neill continues to work with students to provide career information as well as to help them develop important life skills. The following is a summary of her activities for the month:

- Fifty senior students attended the Financial Reality Fair at Torrington High School to learn about financial literacy through a simulated budget based upon their career choice, education required, and credit score.
- Eight students attended the UConn Health Career Day to learn about a variety of careers in health care.
- Six students attended the HV@NYC field trip to the Tenement Museum and McGee Media.
- The Career Connections event for juniors and seniors is being planned and will occur on May 8. A directory of participating professionals is being created to be shared with students, families, and the school community.
- Dr. O'Neill conducted several presentations including Ms. Colligan's health 10 class and the Minds in Motion enrichment event in the Litchfield public schools.

Please be sure to review the details of Dr. Oneill's [full report](#).

### English Learner Program Coordination

School	# of ELL Students
Housatonic Valley Regional High School	11 students (Spanish, Arabic) *2 new arrivals
Cornwall Consolidated School	5 students (Spanish and Arabic)
Lee H. Kellogg School	1 student (Spanish)
Kent Center School	3 students (Spanish)
North Canaan Elementary School	10 students (Spanish, French/Bulgarian) *1 new arrival
Salisbury Central School	12 students (Arabic, Spanish, French/Bulgarian, Chinese) *1 new arrival
Sharon Center School	1 student (Spanish)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43 students</b>

Several new students have moved into Region One over the past month. Mrs. Huber worked closely with the schools to identify the students EL needs through placement tests or by reviewing school records. Salisbury Central expects was just notified of two more students that will be arriving in late April.

Mrs. Huber met with the Title I or ESL teachers at all of the schools to introduce the TELL program, a digital program to be used for regular assessment and progress monitoring of EL students. She

administered the TELL diagnostic test to students at Kent, Salisbury, and Kellogg to get the schools started. These schools will pilot this program for the rest of the school year to see if it will be useful to gain information about our EL students throughout the school year.

Mrs. Huber held an EL department meeting on April 9th. The group debriefed about the March PD session and discussed the teacher feedback, which was quite positive. This group of teachers will continue to make presentations at each individual school during their in-house professional learning sessions next year so they are able to reach all teachers. The EL teachers also reviewed LAS Links scores and graphs, comparing the results from the past three years. This year, 34% of our students scored proficient or above. The teachers have invited Mary O'Neill to be a part of the meeting to discuss International Family Night for fall 2019. She had a lot of great ideas and would like to be an active member in helping us make it a success.