Community Schools Administrator

Bridgette Barr
BOE Update - October 2, 2019

Focus Area 1: Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports

- I am currently working with Sean Milligan, the coordinator of Focus Forward through SUNY Oswego to develop a school-based mentoring partnership with the university. Through this program, undergraduate students are trained as mentors who then work with chosen middle and high school students to develop academic and interpersonal skills. Mentors are able to provide academic and personal goal setting support by building one-on-one relationships with their mentees. The goal is to launch this program in January, if there is a large enough cohort of mentees through SUNY Oswego at that time.

- Through the FLPPS (Finger Lakes Patient Provider System) grant we received through Family Counseling Services of the Finger Lakes, I am working with FoodLink to create a toolkit that will help schools in our region create school-based food pantries. Within the four districts served by the FLPPS grant (North Rose-Wolcott, Clyde-Savannah, Lyons and Sodus), there are eleven food pantries, but the policies, supply sources, availability and operations vary greatly. Some may be only open an hour a week, may be difficult to access if you do not live nearby, and some may turn away those who cannot easily prove residency. Since the school is the hub of our rural communities, placing the food pantry within the school gives us the opportunity to easily distribute food from a more centralized location. It also creates wrap-around learning opportunities, such as providing nutritional expertise, practical shopping help, and the development of prosocial opportunities for family connections in preparing and eating meals together. I will be joining the FoodLink Food Pantry Workgroup, a consortium of 17 school districts throughout Monroe, Ontario and Wayne counties to learn best practices in my endeavor to help create a toolkit that delineates how much space, staffing, start-up money and what kind of referral process is required to start a school-based food pantry.
    - I am also linking this work to resources through Cornell Cooperative Extension to create cooking class opportunities, where a nutrition expert would come from CCE to teach families how to cook a healthy meal, then shop for the supplies in the food pantry so the meal can be recreated at home.

Focus Area 2: Curriculum

- This year, the 21st Century After School Discovery Program and Wayne CAP have joined forces to provide one cohesive, streamlined program at the elementary school. This program is called After School Discovery and is funded through multiple sources. Since September 9th, ~40 students have been receiving after school care. On October 7th, Phase

2 of the After School Discovery Program will begin with a significant increase in students and enrichment opportunities. At this time, there are 80 students registered for the After School Discovery Program. All K-6 students will be housed at the elementary school. Students will have the opportunity to participate in workshops such as Storytelling, Exploring the Great Outdoors, STEAM Club, Musical Monday, Martial Arts, Dance, Yoga and Lego Lab.

- At the MS/HS, LIFT also begins on October 7th. There are currently over 40 students signed up for workshops ranging from foosball, baking, Magic: the Gathering, Anime Club, crafting, retro video games, stretching and meditation, nature walks, Middle School Newspaper, wood tech, electronics, fitness center training, as well as academic support options. This year, we are encouraging teachers to consider the ARCH framework when creating their courses. ARCH stands for Attachment, Regulation, Competency and Health. For example, you may be leading a workshop on retro video games, but how do you teach your students how to handle the inevitable loss they will face when playing Mario Kart? That would be an example of regulation. By explicitly teaching these skills, students will develope competencies they can transfer to other aspects of their lives.

Focus Area 3: Community Engagement

- On Thursday, September 26th, 105 of our 8th grade students joined 600 other 8th grade students from Wayne County at the 8th Grade Career Carnival held at the Wayne County Fairgrounds. Students rotated through stations set up to show job opportunities in six career zones: Arts and Humanities, Business and Information Systems, Engineering and Technology, Health Services, Natural and Agricultural Sciences and Human and Public Service. 55 different vendors were available for students to engage with, and most provided hands-on experiences for the students to truly understand the skills required to be successful in that career. One of the crowd favorites was Mark's Pizzeria, which let the students make and taste their own pizza! The day ended with presentations by Premier Martial Arts and In Jest, who talked about how to do what you love as a career. Though the torrential rain did alter some plans, the students were exceptionally well behaved, learned about themselves and future career opportunities.

Focus Area 4: Professional Learning

The following Professional Learning opportunities were attended this month:

- FLPPS Grant Food Pantry Work Group (B. Barr)
- Wayne County Health Improvement Partnership (B. Barr)