



Brookfield Public Schools



Office of Assistant Superintendent

Dear Brookfield Community,

January 13, 2023

One of the great parts about being involved with education—whether as a student, parent, professional or combination of any of these perspectives—is the chance to have multiple “new year” experiences throughout a 12 month period. We begin the “new year” in late summer (end of August or early September) with excitement, anticipation, and energy for new learning, growth and development. There are also orchestrated intervals built into the school year with marking periods and assessment schedules. Finally, we celebrate the closing out of one calendar year and the beginning of another with the rest of the world when we restart school in January after the winter holiday break. Today marks the first PLC day of the 2022-2023 school year where faculty and staff will, after students leave on an early dismissal schedule, engage in professional learning conversations around curriculum reflection, instructional planning, and student assessment data ([see schedule here](#)). Other highlights from the Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development for Brookfield Public Schools include:

- **Instructional Coaching Update:** As part of the January 4th Board of Education meeting, [this presentation](#) was shared regarding the work of the Brookfield Public Schools Instructional Coaches. Brookfield Public Schools embraced an instructional coaching model starting in the school year 2021-2022 in order to support teachers as they transitioned to post-pandemic teaching. Instructional coaches work with classroom teachers, full grade levels, and departments to help support the continuum between curriculum, instruction, and assessment. They provide important feedback to building level administrators and serve as facilitators for much of the professional development workshops conducted within the District throughout the year.
- **CT State Department of Education (CSDE) K-3 Reading:** Another update delivered at last week’s Board of Education meeting was in regard to the CSDE reading program. Throughout this school year, the CSDE has been releasing information about expectations and required changes to how districts assess early literacy in students in grade kindergarten through 3rd grade as well as the programming and curriculum around building early literacy skills. Please visit this CSDE [website](#) for more information on the changes. After submitting a request for postponement of implementation until the 2024-2025 school year, Brookfield Public Schools will be working throughout the next 18 months to review and explore the various approved assessments and curricular materials from the state department in order to make the most prudent decisions for our young readers with regard to their early literacy skill development.
- **Developing strong school climate and culture:** Prior to the holiday break, there were many classroom, grade-level, and school celebrations, festivities, and opportunities for connection. Some examples include the opportunity Dr. Barile and I both had the opportunity to read to elementary students (see pictures below), which is always a treat for us. Another example of the BPS commitment to developing positive school and district climate along with allowing for growth and development is through our

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professional development day on December 22nd, where teachers worked on project based learning workshops, connecting with their colleagues through restorative circles, touring the CLES site (pictures below), and working on collaborative connections through reviewing student assessment results.



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Ms. Knapp's kindergarten class



Mrs. Sommerfeld's kindergarten class



Ms. Miller's 2nd grade class



Members of CLES tour the new building on 12/22

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated, "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education." Brookfield Public School Educators are committed to the goal of meeting the needs of each child to help them develop the capacities identified by Dr. King and, in so doing, master the

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dispositions outlined in the Brookfield Portrait of the Graduate “4Cs”: **critical & creative thinkers, communicators, collaborators, and changemakers**. Have a wonderful weekend!

Happy 2023!

Sincerely,

Anna Mahon, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent

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