James Mastricola Elementary School, Reeds Ferry Elementary School,
Thorntons Ferry School
Annual Report
2021-2022

As the pandemic ended, the 2021-2022 school year began by defining 'opening school as normal as possible' and celebrating having students back in person 5-days per week. Due to the last few years of uncertainty and disruption, we began the school year with the staff participating in professional development focused on perseverance and resilience, led by Dr. Robert Brooks. Along with this important message, staff was immersed in professional development focused on Universal Design for Learning, acceleration of student learning, social emotional learning, Digital Learning Platforms, and Professional Learning Team Collaboration, along with work on Essential Learning Competencies (ELCs).

Students in kindergarten and new first grader students were provided with summer transition activities. All three elementary schools invited families to the schools during the summer to participate in fun playground events where they could meet their fellow classmates and get a tour of the school.
An important goal for all three elementary schools in 2021-2022 was addressing the learning loss associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic. Utilizing the ELCs and high-quality instruction, our focus was on accelerating student learning through best practice instruction. All students accessed grade level standards/competencies including differentiating instruction, scaffolding, hands-on learning, and modeling; actively engaging students in meaningful, authentic, relevant learning experiences.
We leveraged best practices from the pandemic to creatively connect with families. We now provide families with multiple ways to access conferences and other school and district-wide events such as talent shows, assemblies, Celebration of Song, and Town Hall Meetings. As the year progressed, opportunities for families to attend schoolwide events in person were made available, such as Fall Fest, Showcase of Learning, and Art Shows.

In 2021-2022, we embarked on a multi-year initiative to develop the Merrimack School District's Vision of a Learner. This collaborative process involved various stakeholders including staff, administration, students, families, and community members. The charge for a Vision of a Learner is to identify the values, priorities, opportunities, and challenges of the school district and to lay the foundation for a strategic plan process.

2021-2022 truly reflected the importance of flexibility, creativity, collaboration safety, health and wellness for all students and families at Reeds Ferry Elementary School, Thorntons Ferry Elementary School, and James Mastricola Elementary School.

Respectfully Submitted,

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