

Principals' Reports for April 2021

Celebrations

ALBANY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

The week before vacation Albany had a school spirit week, with a different dress up activity each day. The week culminated in an afternoon of COVID-safe relay races organized by our school counselor Johanna Petrycki, and our SEL specialist Jen Simpson. These activities are part of our PBIS program.

BARTON ACADEMY AND GRADED SCHOOL

Prior to April vacation, the Lake Region National Honor Society welcomed our OCSU class of 2033. They visited each elementary school in the district and presented our kindergarten classes with a spring activity bag. Students were very excited to receive these.

One special event for Barton students this school year is a [school-wide dance choreographed](#) by our music teacher, Mrs. Baker. With our health and safety guidelines this year, Mrs. Baker has found safe ways to engage students in music education. This performance has been one of their favorites.

BROWNINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL

The second grade has been learning and practicing chess with Mrs. Hastings. At one point, they joined with Ms. Blake's class at OES for some lessons. Like Ms. Blake's class, BCS students are playing an extended match against their own phantom player.

Check out the [BCS Facebook](#) page for photos of the insulated cup contest, student-made mancala boards, weather stories, and a few winners of the Staff Teddy Bear of Honor.

GLOVER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Just before vacation, students at GCS enjoyed a spirit week. On Monday students dressed to impress. On Tuesday we had a recess disco party. On Wednesday we played limbo at recess. On Thursday students dressed as villains and heroes and on Friday they wore pajamas.



We also raised over \$1500 for the Matthews family. They recently had a structural fire.

IRASBURG VILLAGE SCHOOL

Our Monday Morning Meetings this month brought recognition to Pam Enterline (guidance counselor) and Tracy Gentler (Math 6-8) along with Eagles of Excellence to both 4th and 5th grades.

On April 16th, the day before April vacation, students enjoyed a “fun day” of activities to celebrate their hard work and enjoyed some ice cream sandwiches or popsicles.

ORLEANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Blake’s second grade students learned how to play chess earlier this year. Right now they are engaged in a phantom chess match between their class and the phantom. They are excited to learn who has been making the mystery moves!!

Students celebrated SBAC completion with ice cream sundaes!

OCSU REMOTE ACADEMY

SBAC testing is done for ORA. We wrapped it up during the last week of April. Very few families agreed to send their children in for these tests, so let’s hope that Vermont’s waiver is approved. We’d like to thank BAGS and OES principals and staff for setting up and staffing testing spaces, and we’d also like to thank any other administrators and ORA staff members who supported testing efforts. ORA students worked hard on these assessments and we’re proud of them. It was obvious that being in ORA had increased their stamina for being on devices for long periods of time.

Focus on Learning & Equity

ALBANY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

As part of our Continuous Needs Assessment for the Consolidated Federal Grants, Albany staff performed an audit of all of our data systems. We identified gaps in our data systems and made plans to rectify our gaps. We discovered that our students are either meeting/exceeding proficiencies, or were below. We don't really have a middle. This points up the need to redouble our efforts with our EST process, and continue our work to build a robust Tier II to give students that occasional boost to keep them on grade level.

During the last week of April, Art Teacher Kristina Snook organized and facilitated Safe Art, a media literacy program consistent with OCSU curriculum, and the EMS Board's interest in equity. Students responded to Disney movies, identifying bias, including racism and sexism, in the video excerpts. The week culminated in gorgeous art projects representing what students want to contribute to our community.

BARTON ACADEMY AND GRADED SCHOOL

On April 12th, Patrice Heinrichs, our EST coordinator, facilitated our update meetings with teachers and parents. Every 6-8 weeks, our Educational Support Team, revisit students' EST plans and monitors their progress. These meetings support our efforts in improving intervention practices and student supports.

Students in grades 3-8 have started their SBAC assessments in literacy and mathematics. They will complete these in May. We are proud of how hard they are working to do their best.

BROWNINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL

All students completed SBAC Reading and Math tests in April. Grades 5 & 8 are also taking the Vermont Science Assessment.

Students learned about animal adaptations, volleyball, number facts to ten, the novel Farewell to Manzanar, place value and strategic thinking, pollinators, volume of a sphere, and so much more.

GLOVER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Glover staff engaged in OCSU PLCs on April 7th. The paras joined a training with Ashley Creighton and the teachers joined Circles with their grade level or content area teams.

I met with 3rd and 4th graders to teach them how to log into SBAC, how to access the tools within the interface, and to show them what to expect. After that, their teachers continued this work so that they were well prepared for May testing. We also talked with students about positive test taking strategies and will reward them for using these strategies during testing.

IRASBURG VILLAGE SCHOOL

Katrina McCullough contributed to our staff with a professional development opportunity during our faculty meeting in our work toward being a more trauma-informed staff. Usually, at least every other month, our staff continue their work in this area.

So far, students have been working very diligently on their SBAC assessments. We will be finished with them on May 19th.

School Climate surveys were completed by students in grades 3-8 and also sent out to families. Results are being analyzed to see where we can improve.

ORLEANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Nature's Classroom visited OES 5th and 6th grades on May 3 and 4 with their Nature on Wheels program. Students participated in science themed activities both days including a raging rivers study, an egg launch, and wilderness survival skills.

Teachers continued reflecting on classroom practices with more work on an equity audit. They shared how they address needs such as differentiation and access in their classrooms. They will use this information when they look at climate survey results later this year.

OCSU REMOTE ACADEMY

The Remote Academy staff wrapped up our book study on the *Distance Learning Playbook*. The final module had the following learning targets:

- 1) I can learn from crises and improve teaching and learning
- 2) I can make distance learning better for students
- 3) I can make distance learning better for teachers
- 4) I can make physical school better for everyone

This book study taught us a lot about remote teaching practices, but also about in-person teaching practices.

Staffing

ALBANY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Lindsay Day has announced that she is not signing her contract. We will be looking for a teacher with a K-6 endorsement to teach one section of elementary math (0.2) and provide interventions (0.8). Jen Schoen has decided to use the one year leave the Board granted, so we are interviewing to hire a Middle School Humanities teacher, who can emphasize Social Studies. Holly Lillis, who taught last year in Coventry has accepted a Humanities position in our Middle School. Holly came highly recommended by her principal, Todd Rohlene. We have hired our student teacher, Bailey Perry, to teach a K-1 classroom in the Fall.

BARTON ACADEMY AND GRADED SCHOOL

We are still advertising for a third grade teacher for the 2021-2022 school year.

BROWNINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL

The only open position left at BCS is Music Teacher 0.2FTE.

GLOVER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

A special education paraprofessional gave her notice and will be done in May. We may not need to replace her but will know more in a week or two.

Our 5th & 6th grade humanities teacher is asking to extend her current leave through the rest of the school year. I have a sub booked, but she's our main sub and we may struggle to cover days off for other staff members in June, so I'm working to find someone else to cover this leave.

For the 2021-2022 school year, we've hired an SEL specialist and are asking the Board to officially hire a k-4 classroom teacher at the meeting on May 10th. We're still looking for a full time literacy interventionist and a full time k-4 teacher. Once we fill positions we can determine our k-4 configuration for next year.

IRASBURG VILLAGE SCHOOL

Kristi Butterfield will be moving to the open kindergarten position. With the recent resignation of Tarrah Martin, our new hire, McKenna Buckley, will be teaching 2nd/3rd humanities. Kaylor Arant will be moving from 4th/5th to 2nd/3rd math and science.

We have an open position that we have been interviewing for in 4th/5th math and science with very few candidates to choose from. Our interventionist position is still open as well.

ORLEANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Our middle school science teacher resigned to take a position closer to her home. We are still interviewing candidates for special education and intervention.

OCSU REMOTE ACADEMY

Nothing to report

Hazing, Harassment, Bullying Investigations

ALBANY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

One investigation, substantiated with respect to both harassment and bullying

BARTON ACADEMY AND GRADED SCHOOL

One investigation, no substantiation.

BROWNINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL

One HHB investigation among three students, two substantiated, one unsubstantiated

GLOVER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

None

IRASBURG VILLAGE SCHOOL

Two HHB investigations - both substantiated

ORLEANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

None

OCSU REMOTE ACADEMY

None