

## **Report of the Ellis School Principal**

Ellis School continues to grow and evolve as we meet the needs of our students. We are committed to providing students with the best curriculum, presented in the best methods, by the best staff in New Hampshire. Our goal is to ensure our students are prepared to continue their education at high school and beyond.

This current school year, we were fortunate to gain a few key staff members at Ellis School. Mrs. Courtney Royal joined us in the Counseling Department; replacing Mrs. Farrar. Mrs. Royal is a native of New England, but recently relocated to New Hampshire after living in the San Francisco area. Mrs. Royal works predominantly with our students in grades 5 through 8. Another addition to our staff has been Ms. Emily Stockbridge. Ms. Stockbridge teaches Spanish to students in grades 5 through 8. It is always fun to hear students practicing their Spanish as they walk down the halls or come into the office. Amy Nicolai joined us as our Title I instructor. Amy spends her time working with students throughout the day on improving Math skills.

The staff at Ellis School embarked on introducing Personalized Learning to our students. Personalized Learning is the approach of looking at the individual student and their learning needs. We know that all students learn at different paces and are at different levels. Teachers look at the learning profile of students and record their academic strengths and weakness, motivations, and goals; this leads to a personal learning path that students help develop and allow them to demonstrate competency in various academic areas. It also allows for students to be responsible for and in control of their own learning. By having ownership and voice, students are more engaged in their learning.

Members of the Ellis School staff have begun to implement this methodology in various ways. Mrs. Drake, a third grade teacher and Ms. Gage, a fourth grade teacher have teamed up to form "Team Good Vibes". Students are arranged in the traditional third and fourth grades, but by teaming, students have the opportunity to access both teachers and work on curriculum "where they are at". In second grade, all three teachers, Mrs. Wentworth, Mrs. Maher, and Mrs. Lathrop bring their classes together to develop community and introduce new concepts. In seventh and eighth grade, students are arranged in Advisories, not homerooms, so students and teachers can cultivate more personalized relationships.

Much of this was possible this year because we were able to purchase 240 Chromebooks to provide one-to-one computing for students in grades three through seven. Next year we will include the second and eighth grades. The one-to-one computing allows our staff to utilize various softwares to support their instruction and students' needs. Achieve3000 is a lexile reading software used in Kindergarten through eighth grade, that continuously adjusts the complexity of the text to individual students. This allows a student to access curriculum at their reading level. Dreambox is a mathematics program that is use Kindergarten through fifth grade which continuously adjusts to a student's mathematical abilities; similar to Achieve3000. Lastly, IXL is another program used in the Middle School grades which offers adaptive lessons in

Mathematics, English Language Arts, and Science. All of these programs reinforce and support the instruction from our teachers and the students' learning.

Teachers are also using Google Classroom; a free service from Google. Google Classroom is blended learning platform specifically for schools that allows for creating, distributing and grading assignments in a paperless way. Google Classroom makes the home to school connection much more seamless.

This year, we are fortunate to have some of our teachers' talents and hard work recognized. In November, Mrs. Lee, fifth grade English Language Arts, presented her theme-based curriculum "Learning thru Lemurs" at the NH Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference and was recognized by Demonstrated Success for the "Best Dressed Classroom". In January, Mrs. Drake and Ms. Gage will present at the NH Association of School Principals regarding the work they are doing with "Team Good Vibes". And this is just some of the great work our teachers are doing!

As stated earlier, our goal is to prepare our students to be life-long learners and be prepared to enter high school. All of the staff at Ellis School is committed to ensure our students are well-rounded and prepared. By working with the community, as a whole, we know we can meet this goal; ensuring success for all students.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Haas  
Principal

*"Success is no accident.*

*It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all,  
love of what you are doing or learning to do."*

~ Pele