

# REFLECTIONS

"The way we experience the world around us is a direct reflection of the world within us." -Gabrielle Bernstein, Author



Welcome to a New and Improved edition of *REFLECTIONS*, the periodic Newsletter from the Office of Curriculum & Instruction. The features of this publication — timely content, informative audio & visual clips, and suggestions for further reading — help you to look forward to its arrival as much as we look forward to distributing it!

In this edition, we take a look back on initiatives that we have been working on for more than two years, including our new Elementary schedule, Morning clubs, Student College, and Equal Opportunity Schools.

While work continues to be done to maximize our potential with the innovations that we created to coincide with the reconfiguration of our Elementary Schools, we are proud of the progress we have made so far. When you have a moment, please click on the links in the stories to learn more about these innovations.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MORNING CLUBS

Our inaugural year launching Morning Clubs at our seven elementary schools has been a success! Students have the opportunity to choose from a variety of interests, including; Computer Coding, Lego STEM Club, Choir, Math Club, Dance Troupe, Chamber Ensemble and many more! The clubs meet once per cycle, before the school day begins. Many students were able to join more than one club at their school. We are excited to see our student enjoy these learning experiences.



## ESL MODEL PROGRAM

Last spring the NJ Department of Education recognized the Franklin Township Public Schools Elementary ESL & Bilingual Program, as well as the High School ESL program by awarding us "model program" status for the second straight year. This program enriches the curriculum of our ELL students with a combination of Pull-out and Push-in instruction, collaboration with content and general education teachers, and professional development for all teachers. Julie Ochoa – Supervisor of ESL/Bilingual Programs – recently hosted a Superintendents' Summit at FHS. Superintendents and administrators from around the state were welcomed to several of our schools to observe and learn about our ESL programs.

[Click here to listen to Ms. Ochoa's reaction to receiving the award!](#)

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS) is a new recruitment program at FHS that helps students access advanced placement courses. EOS helps teachers identify students whose learning history predicts that they can be successful in AP when a mentor actively takes an interest in the student's success. Studies have shown that students who take at least one AP class in high school are much more likely to attend college and complete a degree, so we are interested in seeing more students take AP courses in the future. Our belief is that more students will be enrolled in AP classes in the 2019-2020 school year as a result of our work with teachers and students through EOS this year.



## LOOKING FORWARD

### FRANKLIN'S FINEST

District leaders have begun planning our annual Curriculum Expo and Performing Arts Showcase. Our school community will have the opportunity to see our students' talents and achievements. We hope you will join us at Claremont Elementary School on Saturday, March 23, 2019.



### REPORT CARDS

In June 2017 we began a discussion about our report card structure. That discussion turned into a collaborative effort with teachers, administrators, and parents designed to improve our report cards. We are happy to announce that we have made significant progress and plan to share our work with the school community in the coming months. Our goal is to have new report cards in place for the 2019-2020 school year.

## Gifted & Talented Program

The 2018-19 school year marks the completion of our five-year initiative to bring Gifted and Talented to our elementary schools! Every year, all second grade, third grade, and fourth grade students are evaluated for placement in Gifted and Talented Science Enrichment. Students are placed in the program through a multiple-measure rubric that uses standardized tests, district assessments, and a teacher survey to examine students' proficiency, growth, and aptitude. The selection process is completed in June. Notification for selected students is sent home to families in July in preparation for the new school year.

## Student College

This year, Grade 4 and 5 students have been enjoying a curriculum choice option via the Student College elective experience. Student College enables schools to enrich a student's program of instruction by allowing him or her to take advantage of a three-step learning process called the Renzulli **Enrichment Triad Model**. Students learn new skills, practice those skills, and then collaborate to create and present a project, getting first-hand experience in activities geared toward their personal interests. Research indicates that student attendance and motivation trends higher when students' interests align to their studies. Students will begin their second Student College elective in February.



[Click here](#) for insight from Principal Bevere of Claremont Elementary School on the correlation between student attendance and learning choices.

## Instant Decision Day

On December 4, 2018, the Franklin High School Guidance & Counseling Department hosted an Instant Decision Day with Kean University. Nine seniors were admitted on the spot for admission to Kean's Class of 2023 based on their SAT scores, transcripts, essays and interview with admissions representative Alexandra Fernandez.



Additionally, all nine students were awarded scholarship money, with one student receiving a full tuition scholarship. In total, our students were awarded over \$25,000!



## Tweets from our district!

