

March 2020 SIT Meeting Notes

A. Covid Updates for Birchwood Middle School

1. Masks are still being worn
2. Mask breaks have stopped as a result of RIDOH guidance.
3. Classrooms being “fogged” each night.
4. Lunch continues to be eaten in the classrooms. Gym classes eat in the cafeteria.
5. Many families are opting their students back into in person learning.
6. Basketball for both boys and girls is now over.
7. Spring season to start the middle of the month.

B. R.I.C.A.S. Test Preparation

1. Teachers start now for the test in the Spring.
2. After school ramp up instruction for targeted subgroups and subject areas.
3. Incentives developed via the P.B.I.S. committee for students achievement & effort.
4. Incentives to include basketball outside, walking, art projects.
5. Content Leaders shift content meeting to a focus on R.I.C.A.S. and gaps that were identified earlier in the year.
6. E.L.A. testing is scheduled before April 6th & 7th. Makeup- 4/8-4/16.
7. Math Testing is scheduled for after April 28th & 29th. Makeup- 4/30-5/13.
8. 8th grade science testing will take place in mid to late May 11th & 12th.

C. 2nd Quarter Academic Achievement

1. The 2nd quarter ended on 1/29/21.
2. Report cards were made available to parents on 2/5/21 via Skyward online.
3. A concern exists for students that have not been attending school either virtually or in person.
4. Teachers have contacted families via phone calls, e-mails as well as holding parent meetings.
5. Support staff along with our school resource officer have conducted home visits.
6. The truancy officer has been involved in extreme cases.
7. Students in danger of failing for the year met with Mr. Gilmore and Mrs. Hambly one on one to discuss a plan to improve student academic performance.

D. Spring Goals

1. The students in the S.T.E.A.M. academy will continue to work with the master gardeners from the University of Rhode Island to get the backyard garden cleaned and ready for planting.

2. Mr. Palazzo and Mr. Troccoli will work in conjunction with our STEAM students interested in creating a new welcome garden around the front of our school.
3. As soon as the weather breaks we will start our outdoor seating for lunches as a reward and time for students to get some fresh air.
4. The student of the month celebration continues to be a success in spite of the pandemic.