



Bucks County Intermediate Unit

Bristol Borough School District

Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center

Cohort 10 – Year 2

Formative Evaluation Report

Prepared by

The Bucks County Intermediate Unit

Doylestown, PA 18901

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Overview

Bristol Borough School District (BBSD), in partnership with the Advisory Oversight Committee of Bristol Borough (AOC), received funding through the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) Cohort 10 grant to begin with the 2019-2020 school year. Programming takes place at two sites: Snyder-Girotti Elementary School (Grades K-6) and St. Mark Catholic School (Grades K-4). The goal was to serve 110 students across all program sites regularly attending thirty days or more during the school year programs. BBSD is an eligible Schoolwide Title I district where all at-risk students may participate in programs.

Data show that the communities served by the grant have a low graduation rate and low college degree attainment based on county comparisons. The population attending Snyder-Girotti Elementary and St. Mark Catholic School is diverse in ethnicity and special needs.

The Act 10 school safety data indicate a safe school environment despite the student perceptions revealed through the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS). BBSD has consistently participated in the PAYS to provide insight into risky student behaviors. The surveys are completed by students anonymously, giving them an outlet to report perceived threats that contribute to their feelings of safety in the school environment. Truancy has steadily increased and is a concern among minority populations. 21st CCLC staff work with existing programs and efforts to cultivate an environment where students feel safe and connected to their school.

The Pennsylvania funding for this grant will focus on the following target areas for student growth:

- Drug and Alcohol Prevention
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM)
- Science, Technology, Revitalization, Engineering, Arts, Math, and Scholarship
- College and Career Awareness
- Transitional Vocational/Technical Services Planning

Performance indicators for grantees required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education are those students regularly participating in the program will:

1. Meet or exceed state and local academic achievement standards in reading and math.
2. Show improvement in the performance measures of school attendance, classroom performance, and/or reduced disciplinary referrals.
3. Demonstrate additional positive educational, social, and behavioral changes.

The evaluation team will continue to monitor the progress towards these performance indications each year for which grant funding is provided.

Evaluation Team and Site Visit Dates

Members of the Bucks IU evaluation team are Dr. Rachel Holler, Ronald Rolon, James LoGiudice, Paul Beltz, Kevin Munnely, Christina Lang, Dr. Suzanne Laverick-Stone, and Dr. David Weitzel. Members of the team collected and analyzed data derived from onsite observations and interviews with students, staff, parents, and Cohort 10 community partners.

- April 22, 2020: Dr. Suzanne Laverick-Stone, Ron Rolon, Kevin Munnely, and Paul Beltz participated in a Zoom meeting with 21st CCLC staff.
- May 5, 2020: Dr. Suzanne Laverick-Stone participated in a virtual summer learning planning session with PDE and Bristol Borough 21st CCLC Leadership staff.
- May 11, 2020: Dr. Suzanne Laverick-Stone attended a virtual PA Department of Education webinar related to summer planning for 21st CCLC programming.
- June 1, 2020: Paul Beltz, Dr. Suzanne Laverick-Stone, and Kevin Munnely participated in a Zoom meeting with 21st CCLC staff.
- June 12, 2020: Paul Beltz, Dr. Suzanne Laverick-Stone, and Kevin Munnely participated in a Zoom meeting with 21st CCLC staff.
- July 13, 2020: Dr. Suzanne Laverick-Stone conducted a virtual site visit of the Bristol Borough summer program by joining Zoom sessions led by the 21st CCLC teachers.
- July 27, 2020: Paul Beltz conducted a virtual site visit of the Bristol Borough summer program by joining Zoom sessions led by 21st CCLC teachers.
- September 8, 2020: Paul Beltz, Dr. Suzanne Laverick-Stone, and Kevin Munnely participated in a Zoom meeting with 21st CCLC staff to discuss recently completed summer programming and plans for fall activities.
- November 12, 2020: Dr. Suzanne Laverick-Stone, Kevin Munnely, and Paul Beltz conducted a virtual site virtual site visit to Snyder-Girotti school.
- December 17, 2020: Paul Beltz participated in a virtual visit to a family fun activity for elementary students at Snyder-Girotti school.
- January 20, 2021: Dr. Suzanne Laverick-Stone, Kevin Munnely, and Paul Beltz conducted a virtual site visit to St. Mark and Snyder-Girotti schools. 21st CCLC staff

also discussed programs at the high school level.

- January 27, 2021: Paul Beltz, Dr. Suzanne Laverick-Stone, and Kevin Munnelly participated in a Zoom meeting with 21st CCLC staff to discuss recently completed fall programming and plans for spring activities.
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- February 23-24, 2021: Dr. Suzanne Laverick-Stone virtually attended the *2021 Extra Learning Opportunities Conference: Promising Practices, Proven Strategies*, focusing on after school programming.
- March 3, 2021: Paul Beltz, Dr. Suzanne Laverick-Stone, and Kevin Munnelly virtually met with BBSD leadership staff and conducted virtual visits of programs at St. Mark and Snyder-Girotti schools.
- April 7, 2021: Dr. Suzanne Laverick-Stone attended virtual activities at Snyder-Girotti Elementary School and St. Mark School.
- April 8, 2021: Dr. Suzanne Laverick-Stone attended virtual activities Snyder-Girotti and St. Mark School.

Findings for Bristol Borough Summer 2020

The 21st CCLC Cohort 10 summer programs for students in the St. Mark School were affected by the pandemic closure of schools. Under the direction of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, face-to-face summer activities on school sites were eliminated. Alternatively, varied program activities and instruction were organized and delivered in an online virtual technology environment. 21st CCLC summer activities began on June 29, 2020 and ended on August 7, 2020.

Summer Camp

Even though the summer program was virtual for 2020, the academic and enrichment program was like that of previous years. The Bristol Borough virtual summer program served St. Mark students in grades K to 4. Camp activities were scheduled virtually Monday through Thursday each week.

- ***Academics:*** The ELA activities included breakout grade level groups to address reading and writing skills and strategies. Students also completed assigned summer reading activities developed by the school. Books were purchased through 21st CCLC funds. Students also engaged in math activities and games based on school curriculum. Math packet activities were designed to focus on concepts students would encounter in the upcoming school year. In addition to the program's academic focus, students had the opportunity to participate in either an arts or sports program two days per week. The focus on academics, arts, and health and wellness during the summer program helped to meet key goals of the grant.
- ***Performing Arts:*** Arts instruction in summer's virtual program included the performing arts, with students working on an "Under the Sea" theme with a culminating virtual production using scenes from *The Little Mermaid*. Scaffolded instruction provided through the vendor *Village Arts* supported students as they engaged in choreographed dances, singing, acting, and costume and prop making. The challenge of presenting a culminating production was met through a performance for which individual students recorded videos which were then pulled

together by staff to create a seamless production. Parents and students were invited to view the final presentation online.

- ***Athletics and Nutrition:*** Students at all grades were offered opportunities to participate in physical fitness training, learn group games to play outside with family and friends, and learn how to make healthy snack recipes. As a culminating experience, staff and students competed in pre-recorded fitness, sport, and field day games.

Home Enrichment Kits

Enrichment kits were provided to families to facilitate student participation and included folders, pencils, jump ropes, weights, learning packets, and materials needed for performances. Each week families picked up kits which also included incentives such as t-shirts, sunglasses, and wristbands to encourage participation. These incentives were purchased by the community Academic Oversight Committee. It should be noted that upon parent request, staff provided porch drop-off of enrichment kits.

End-of-Summer Celebration

In keeping with the format from previous years, a socially distanced “Grab-and-Go Picnic Celebration” was provided to over fifty students and their families.

Commendations for Summer 2020

- The Cohort 10 staff is commended for their efforts to provide a meaningful academic and enrichment program under very difficult circumstances. To encourage participation, the leadership staff reached out to parents through a district website and personal contacts. Communication was specific, helpful, and of professional quality. To keep students engaged as the summer program progressed, staff provided personal phone calls, incentives, enrichment kits, and counselor “hang out hours.”
- Program directors are to be commended for their success in meeting the challenges of implementation. Leadership provided weekly virtual meetings both in the planning and implementation stages and posted comprehensive meeting minutes and helpful Q&A documents. Clear procedures were put in place to help staff handle issues as they encountered them. Staff were also provided with professional development related to best practices for virtual instruction.
- The 21st CCLC staff is commended for their creativity in adapting the structure of the summer culminating experience to a virtual model.

Findings for School Year 2020-2021

The 21st CCLC sites at Snyder-Girotti Elementary School followed Pennsylvania Department of Education and school district guidelines in creating a virtual model for delivery of the program. Programming at St. Mark School has also been virtual during this time following school guidelines.

Student and Parent Outreach Events included:

- Slideshow for the Title One Parent Advisory, titled “Why Should My Child Join the After School Program?”
- Virtual Family Fun Nights, including an Ugly Sweater/Cookie Night for elementary and middle school students and Family Baking Nights for all grades.
- Private Facebook group: Posts included information and celebrations and have been an important part of the communications with families.

Community Outreach included:

- A presentation to a community group, the Bristol Borough Academic Oversight Committee
- School supplies backpack program
- *Driving Out the Cold* coat drive
- Open food pantry
- *Grab and Go Meals* program coordinated with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia
- Ivins House food distribution
- *Giving Tree* holiday gifts program

Professional Development:

With funding for programs and activities related to Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and Drug & Alcohol Prevention no longer available, Ivins House received a grant from the Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission in two areas:

- *Building Strong African American Families* which will include evening programming for parents and families.

- *Life Skills* which will include instruction in drug, alcohol and violence prevention, and self-esteem building.

Professional development for key 21st CCLC staff members began in the spring with planning for programming to begin in the summer program.

Snyder-Girotti Elementary School

A consistent weekly schedule was developed to assist both students and parents in planning for participation in the after school virtual programming. The schedule included time for students to receive help with individual tasks through open support and office hours, and tutoring time for math and ELA. Thursdays were designated as Fun Day to allow for socialization through group activities and games.

Grade	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
K, 1, 2	3:15-4:00 Open Support 5:30-6:00 Office Hours	3:15-4:00 Math	3:15-4:00 ELA	<i>Fun Day!</i> All students and staff 3:00-4:30
3, 4	4:00-4:45 Open Support	4:00-4:45 Math 5:30-6:00 Office Hours	4:00-4:45 ELA	

Adventure Quest/SOAR programs, offerings, and activities included:

- **Math/Reading Tutoring:** Tutoring by certified teachers was held for reading and math. A prepared schedule delineated time slots for grades and subjects on a weekly basis. The reading program offered tutoring and individualized instructional support to diverse groups of students, differentiated by achievement and grade levels. Student placement was based on the levels of reading proficiency. The instructors used the *Lexia* program to assess the acquisition of increased Lexile levels. For math tutoring, classroom teachers provided instruction based on classroom objectives. The lead tutor was the school's math specialist who provided staff development to other tutors and ensured a match between the school day and after school programs.
- **Volunteer Tutoring Program:** One-to-one tutoring sessions were made available for students. This program was coordinated through two district volunteers and students were referred by teachers and other staff members.
- **Homework Help:** Tutoring and fun activities were part of the daily program. Students were offered different programs at various times with breakout rooms to make the number of students manageable. Students were afforded opportunities to complete homework and receive assistance with assignments from class.
- **Book Club:** Intermediate grade students read select books along with peers and teachers and met virtually to discuss authors, story plots, and characters.
- **Science Explorers:** This vendor, new to Bristol Borough for the 2020-2021 program, provided online presentations for elementary students in grades K through 4. In advance of presentations, students were sent kits prepared from the vendor that included all but the most common household materials needed to complete the activity. Students were introduced to concepts such as sound waves and properties of materials. These activities were popular with students.
- **Peace Rising:** This Peace Center program for students in grades K through 4 was designed to promote positive social/emotional learning concepts providing lessons that focused on building emotional awareness.

- **Connect U:** This vendor program provided virtual sessions for students in STEM areas including Sound Science, Nutrition Mission, and Engineering. Project kits of materials were delivered to the homes of students so that they could participate in the hand-on experiments.
- **Yoga:** Students in grades K through 6 participated in adult-led virtual yoga classes. **Cooking with Chef Sue:** Students in grades 5 and 6 participated in cooking activities in these popular sessions. The instructor modeled cooking a recipe and taught nutrition while students cooked along at home. Students were provided with project bags including ingredients delivered to the homes of students.
- **Village Arts:** A tailored art experience for students was designed by the grant vendor, *Village Arts*. The intent of this art program for students in Grades 3 and 4 was to promote creativity and self-awareness by engaging students in hands-on activities and expression. Materials were delivered to students.
- **Stage Combat:** This ArtRageous program supported students' interest in theater by instructing them in the art of stage fighting.

St. Mark Catholic School

The St. Mark Catholic School 21st CCLC Cohort 10 program served students in grades K through 4. At the St. Mark Catholic School, students participated in daily *SOAR* activities including homework help, academic enrichment, and group recreation activities. Snacks were provided by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

A consistent weekly schedule was developed and used to assist both students and parents in planning for participation in the after school virtual programming. The schedule included time for students to receive help with individual tasks through open support and office hours, and tutoring time for math and ELA.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
3:00-3:15	<i>Check-In & Attendance</i>			
3-15-3:45	K-2 Math Tutoring	3-5 Math Tutoring	K-2 ELA Tutoring	3-5 ELA Tutoring
3:45-4:15	K-2 Homework Help	3-5 Homework Help	K-2 Homework Help	3-5 Homework Help
4:15-4:45	K-2 Office Hours	3-5 Office Hours	K-2 Office Hours	3-5 Office Hours
4:45-5:45	<i>Enrichment Programming</i>			
5:45-6:00	<i>Daily Wrap-up</i>			

Program offerings include the following:

- **Homework Help:** Tutoring and fun activities were held every day. Students were offered different programs at various times with breakout rooms to ensure better management. Students were afforded opportunities to complete homework and receive assistance with assignments from class.
- **Math/Reading Tutoring:** Virtual small group tutoring by instructors was held for reading and math. A posted schedule delineated time slots for grade levels and subjects on a weekly basis.

- **Enrichment Programming:** Students in grades K through 4 at St. Mark School had the opportunity to participate in many of the enrichment activities that were provided to students in the BBSD program as listed in the above section.

Commendations

All Sites

All Sites

- The 21st CCLC Leadership team is commended for their willingness to offer as many virtual programs as possible. They have enthusiastically communicated with the community programs that are offered virtually and those programs that had to be adapted to work with the virtual format. They delivered kits to students, allowing participation in the sciences, culinary field, and visual arts. Their enthusiasm, persistence, and efforts to meet the needs of students are noteworthy.
- The leadership and teachers displayed a strong team commitment to support each other in order to provide quality programming for students as evidenced by their daily interactions during virtual sessions and in weekly team meetings. The 21st CCLC leadership team provided strong technical support during the virtual sessions for students and the evaluation team.