



ARPS Family Center Newsletter



Have a question? Call or stop by and ask. The ARPS Family Center is for everyone!

Sponsored Programs

Computer Program

Repurposed Computers given out to eligible families.

Juntos We Play Events

Events hosted in the community throughout the school year.

Project Backpack

Backpacks distributed annually to district families.

Youth Engagement

Students are at the center of our work. We support several programs such as: "They Made it so can I", Dialogue Forums, College Access Group, Intergenerational Equity Group, Youth Leadership Groups, etc.

Steps to Success

Tier 3 long term family support program offered within the ARPS Family Center that supports the academic success of students.

Home Visit Project

School and District Staff visit homes to connect with families and partner for student success.

Before and After School Programs

Before and After school programs are available at all elementary schools to support student academic success.

VELA

The VELA Program is afterschool support for all students at the middle school.

Holiday Gift Drive



We want to thank all the staff that participated in the Holiday Gift Drive 2017. Your thoughtfulness & kindness is greatly appreciated by our children and families.

Because of your generous donations we were able to provide 50 students with gifts and warm clothing. Thank you again!

They made it so can I

For November and December, the speakers of the "They Made It... So Can I" program shared stories of encouragement and self-esteem at Fort River, speakers Xochitl Garcia and Dr. Carmen Cosme met with the sixth grade students and described their Elementary School educational journey. The students at Fort River got to hear stories of personal and professional triumph.

Wildwood 6th graders heard from Paul Wiley and Anastasia Morton. Both shared stories focused on redefining success and loving yourself inside and out.



Middle School Leadership Group

Living in Amherst has several

January 2017



**Dr. Marta Guevara,
Director
Student & Family
Engagement**

positive aspects... close proximity to several neighboring colleges being at the top of the list. For the last two months, the Amherst Regional Middle School leadership team and VELA after school leadership students studied "boundaries and expectations." The focus of this program has been building social competencies, the ability to plan and decision making. The students are quick learners and are eager to put everything they have learned into practice.

Shout Out!

We would like to "Shout Out!" Mr. Hunter, the Middle School math teacher for his support to the VELA program and going above and beyond his duties to make sure the VELA students understand the math concepts and making it fun!

Magic Number is 27

5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

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|--|---|----|
| | 5 | 12 |
| | 9 | |
| | | 8 |



Success after High School

The group explored the reality of adult life after high school through a series of lessons about budgeting, citizenship, and opportunities. We researched various college degrees, majors, and minors during November and December. The students wrote long term goals regarding education and life after graduation.

Students participated in a workshop facilitated by The Kaplan Educational Foundation. Nancy Lee Sanchez, Executive Director of the foundation and Rhoda Tamakloe, Assistant Director, together with a group of current scholars of the program lead the presentation. The High School Students were fully engaged in the experience.

Coalition of Schools Educating boys of color (COSEBOC)



Last spring, we began working with a group of young men of color from the High School and attended the annual gathering of leaders in New York City. We have continued our work with the original group of young men and have expanded to include younger high school students. We have been meeting weekly and have collectively developed curriculum to encourage Middle School students to think about success before and during High School. A group of the COSEBOC scholars volunteered their free time to lead a workshop for middle school VELA students

about what they wish they knew before transitioning to High School.

Steps to Success



We have been continuing our weekly lunch groups and meetings with all of our students. We have created a goal sheet for our students, as well as celebrated individuality through various activities. We helped students identify areas of academic strengths and weakness and showed them how to make small goals to improve themselves so that they can accomplish more overall. The snowflake activity taught children about individuality and diversity and how our differences make the world a better place!

This December, we participated in a few holiday drives that provided gifts for our families. We also worked with KidsAfrik, who hosted the Kid's Fun & Culture Retreat at the Allsport Soccer Arena during the holiday break. This retreat included art, music, soccer, dodgeball, dance, drumming and much more!

In January we will be doing mid-year evaluations and self-reflections, as well as learning the importance of how to improve skills for the rest of the year.



Holiday Gift Drive



ARPS Family Center Amherst-Pelham Regional Middle School

170 Chestnut Street
Amherst, MA 01002

Hours:
Monday-Thursday
8:00am-4:00pm

Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm

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