



ARPS Family Center Newsletter



Juntos we play

Steps to Success

Family University

Before & Afterschool Programs

They made it so can I

Juntos we Play Olympia Oaks



Warm Winter Clothing Share



To help everyone stay warm this winter, we are supporting the Amherst School parent and guardian organizations (PGOs) to collect winter clothing for distribution to school and community families. We are seeking donations of clean, gently used winter clothing in **ALL** sizes (kids & adults) Coats, snow pants, snow boots, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, snowsuits, etc... all donations can be dropped off during school hours in your school lobby. Contact your main office if you have any questions.

October 2016



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

Before School

The Before School Programs are in full swing and is offered at Crocker Farm Elementary School, Fort River Elementary School and Wildwood Elementary School. Registered students arrive at 7:30 am each morning and participate in supervised activities until 8:30 am. Activities include arts & crafts, board games and playground time.

The cost of the Before School program is \$4.00 / day per student. Siblings are an additional \$2.00 / day. There is a fee reduction for students who qualify for free/reduced lunch. This fee reduction is available to income-eligible families for both the Before School Care Program and the Afterschool Programs.

Afterschool Programs

The After School Programs at Crocker Farm, Wildwood and Fort River Elementary Schools are an invaluable asset to the students who are enrolled as well as their families. Individual programs are fully aligned in an effort to ensure a positive and equitable experience for all respective participants.

Providers at Capacidad (Fort River Elementary School), LSSE Prime Time (Crocker Farm & Wildwood Elementary School) and Marks Meadow (Wildwood Elementary School) collaborate, exchange ideas and have synchronized development strategies for enrichment activities which include reading groups, study groups, arts & crafts, athletics, board games, yoga, outside activities and dance.

The cost of the After School program is \$54 /month per student attending 1 time per week. There is a fee reduction for students who qualify for free/reduced lunch. This fee reduction is available to income-eligible families for both the Before School Care Program and the Afterschool Programs.

In addition to these amelioration activities, English Language Arts and Math academic interventions are available. Adults, including program directors, staff and volunteers from local colleges assist, with academic and enhancement activities throughout the afternoon.

Aequora Classics Enrichment

The Amherst-Pelham Regional School District in conjunction with the Classics department at Amherst College and The Paideia Institute are happy to announce the start of the Aequora Classics Enrichment After -School Program held at the Fort River Elementary School every Wednesday from 3:15 pm until 5:15 pm. Classes began on Wednesday October 5th.

This program is designed to spark interest in the Latin language and to promote literacy skills through writing, games and activities, especially in underserved communities and/or with students who may not have English as their first language.

Latin is the language of the ancient Romans and the mother of all Romance languages. Learning Latin lets you read exciting ancient myths and stories, helps you understand English vocabulary and makes it easier to learn related languages like Spanish, French and Italian. Most importantly, Latin is fun!

Title 1 After-School Program

The Amherst-Pelham Regional School District is delighted to announce that we are once again offering the Title 1 ELA & Math After-School Academic Support Program for our students located at Fort River, Wildwood and Crocker Farm elementary schools.

The ELA literacy program will be offered to students in grades 3, 4 and 5. The Math academic support program will be offered to students in the 6th grade.

The Title 1 After-School Program will begin on Tuesday November 29 th, 2016 and will run through Thursday June 1, 2017. The Title 1 classes will consist of one hour ELA and Math instruction on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 pm until 4:30 pm.

Meet Dr. Carmen Cosme



New VELA Coordinator

Dr. Cosme obtained her PhD in Hispanic Languages and Linguistics from the Dept. of Languages, Literatures and Cultures at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She is an Adjunct Faculty for the History and English Department at Springfield Community College, in Springfield, MA. She is currently working with Dr. Aurora Vergara Figueroa on a co-edited volume titled, *Challenging Enslavement: Black Women's Strategies of Resistance in Nueva Granada (Colombia), Venezuela, Brazil, and Cuba 1550-1900*. In 2013 UMass Amherst granted her the Diversity Fellowship. In 2012, the Department of African American Studies also at the University of Massachusetts Amherst awarded her a Certificate of African Diasporic studies. In 2008, Carmen received her MA in Latin American and Caribbean Literature, as well as a Certification in Latin American, Latino and Caribbean Studies at the University of Massachusetts. Her academic interests include but are not limited to studies of Afro-Latin American and Caribbean literature, studies of the African Diaspora, Afro-Portuguese studies, Gender studies, Translation and transcription of colonial archives, and Latin America's historiography. In 2005, she earned her BA degree in Spanish and Secondary Education from City University of New York-Queens College. Carmen is a member of the Modern Language Association, the Latin American Studies Association, the American Comparative Literature Association, the Afro/Latin American Research Association, and the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora..

**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

Phone:
(413) 362-1875

Fax:
(413) 549-1036

They made it so can I



As part of the Youth Culture Initiative, Anastasia Morton in conjunction with the Family Center continued the "They Made It...; So Can I" speaking series.

The "They Made It...; so Can I" speaking series aims to present opportunities for guest speakers to shared their educational journey and how that pushed their understanding of how to read the world Arielle Derival and Dr. Gloria Guevara visited Crocker Farm Elementary School. The speakers told the 6th graders about pivotal memories and moments that have led to their long-term success.

Middle School Leadership Group



- Monday's and Tuesday's have been spent working on further developing leadership skills with 8th graders.
- During the Middle School day, once a month various students spend lunch & advisory work on hard and soft skills.
 - o The first two sessions focused on community building and long plus short term goals
- Several students visited the Malcolm X Culture Center at UMass College, to get exposure to colleges in their community.

Success after High School

- The "Success After High School" program, kicked off on Oct13th
- A motivated group of students ranging from 8th to 12th grade has engaged with college students from Mount Holyoke college and

UMass.

- For the last three sessions, students have worked in small and large groups session; focusing on individual and group goals.

Steps to Success

Curriculum:

This year we have begun working with students on a more systematic curriculum that is evolving as we go throughout this year. Advisors meet with students from grade 4-12 during lunch time. They are at schools weekly. Focuses are on envisioning future selves, positive routine building, academic check ins and advancement, post-grad planning, internship opportunities, resume building, maximizing opportunities and experiences, etc.

Our theme for October was organization. We focused on learning styles, time management, home routines and planners.

In November, we will be focusing on setting and accomplishing goals.

Family University:

The launch of this year's Family University meetings was a success! Families were invited to enjoy breakfast treats with us at the ARPS Family Center. We had a great turn-out. We had participants who represented each of our Amherst schools. Our parents were highly engaged. They shared experiences and touched on many important topics related to the school system. With the help of our director Dr. Marta Guevara, we will be sharing this information with the appropriate school personnel. We look forward to meeting with this group monthly!



The survival center is giving out extra food during the month of November. If you know any families that might benefit from this please give them the following information:



Program Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and
Friday: 11 am to 3 pm
Open Thursdays until 7 pm
Closed Wednesdays

**Open 3rd Saturday of the
month, 9:30 am - 11:30 am
(Food Pantry and Community
Store ONLY)**

Free Hot Lunch is served from noon to 1pm. Fresh Food Distribution, our Food Pantry, and our Community Store are available during our weekday open hours (above).