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# The LITCHFIELD PRIDE

SUMMER 2022

Official Newsletter of Litchfield Public Schools

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

CENTER SCHOOL • INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL • MIDDLE SCHOOL • HIGH SCHOOL

## Letter from the Superintendent A Historic Opportunity – Thank You

Dear Community,

On Tuesday, June 28, 2022, the registered voters of Goshen, Litchfield, Morris, and Warren will have an opportunity to vote on a referendum question.

**“Shall a regional school district be established in accordance with the plan approved by the State Board of Education on May 4, 2022?”**

This referendum represents decades of work by many people. I am thankful for those contributions to our community that led us to the day when the voters will finally have a say.

All along my mission has been to engage our many stakeholders, inform people, and ensure they seize the opportunity regardless of the outcome. I am thankful to all that have engaged during this journey.

Over the course of the last month, I have participated in no less than three dozen meetings through a combination of Board events, question and answer sessions, town hall meetings with students, and public hearings. I have had the rare chance to see hundreds of students, parents, and community members during these interactions. The community truly engaged in this important work.

Every session was unique and brought forward new ideas for the future. While my role was to provide information, it was you, the community, that taught me something new every day. Historic stories of the past led to discussions of the present, and created concepts for the future. Now, more than ever, I know that there is great work to be accomplished.

In closing, I just wanted to express my professional thanks. When I asked for engagement you did it to the highest level and it is you that makes this community special and makes education better.

Best wishes for the start of summer and the next chapter in our journey.

Christopher Leone  
Superintendent of Schools



## Two Districts Innov8 Event “Week of Innovation” a Huge Success!

By: Sara Baranauskas, K-12 STEM Coordinator

Regional School District 6 and Litchfield Public Schools held their very first Two Districts Innov8 event the week of May 16, 2022. Events occurred throughout both districts each day of the week.

The K-12 Innov8 team began meeting in late winter to begin planning the collaborative event. Members from each district and grade level band came together to brainstorm, plan and develop the events for students to engage. The team decided that the Week of Innovation should focus on four pillars within the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) habits of mind:

- Questioning & Problem Posing
- Creating, Imagining, Innovating
- Thinking Flexibly & Interdependently
- Persisting & Taking Responsible Risks

Litchfield Center School’s students participated in a variety of activities facilitated by specials teachers and staff. The ten workshops utilized a five-step engineering design process. Cross-curricular STEAM topics included building geometric shapes, cardboard construction boats, paper circuits, bookbinding, songwriting, perler bead art design, beginner carpentry, Spanish language, yoga, and marble tracks. Students were surveyed and selected workshops of their choice with classes integrated throughout. Litchfield Intermediate School held its very own Cardboard Challenge that lasted the entire week, culminating in students sharing and engaging in each others’ creations.

The middle schools focused on two different cross-curricular topics - art and circuitry and STEM and social problems. One of the activities, called “Two Buckets” encouraged

students to be “out of the box thinkers” and link a company, such as Apple with a real-world problem, such as developing sustainable clothing. Students were encouraged to design a product or a way that their chosen company would tackle an issue not explicitly related to the company.

High school students were tasked with finding an innovative way to improve their schools. Students selected a pathway, such as Art, Engineering, or Tourism, to develop. As we look to improve our schools, how can we improve our school through [the lens of the pathway/chosen interest]? Students selected a career cluster that they were interested in, as did teachers, and met in groups to develop a plan to make their school a better place. Ideas such as improving bathrooms, choosing engaging activities during advisory, outdoor seating in the courtyard, and creating a school store.

Our innovation collaboration also included community engagement events such as six K-6 Family Robotics Engagement Nights as well as the Master Builder event in which teams competed to build a robotic Lego kit. District teams were led by Chris Leone, Kyle Harris, and a two-district Board of Education team. Each team competed against Master Lego Builder, Paras Patani, and was comprised of K-8 students from the districts.

Next school year’s Two Districts Collaborate event will be “Two Districts One Book”, and stay tuned for more community engagement Lego building events next year. We look forward to our next “Two Districts Innov8” Two Districts Innov8 during the 2023-24 school year.

Stay engaged in local education: [www.litchfieldschools.org](http://www.litchfieldschools.org)

## Litchfield Public Schools

### Board of Education

Matthew Terzian, Chairman  
terzianm@lpsct.org

Daniel Clock, Vice Chairman  
clockd@lpsct.org

Steve Malo, Secretary  
malos@lpsct.org

Tim Breslin  
breslint@lpsct.org

John Morosani  
morosanj@lpsct.org

Lynn Murphy  
murphyl@lpsct.org

Tina Reardon  
reardont@lpsct.org

Wayne Shuhi

Lynn Stone  
stonel@lpsct.org

### District Office

Superintendent of Schools  
Christopher Leone  
860-361-9033 • leonec@lpsct.org

Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Kristen Della Volpe  
860-361-9033 • dellavolpek@lpsct.org

Chief Academic Officer  
Amy Kennedy  
860-567-6641 • kennedyam@lpsct.org

Chief Operations Officer  
Jeremiah Sattazahn  
860-361-9014 • sattazahnj@lpsct.org

Director of Pupil Services  
Julie Haggard  
860-567-7505 • haggardj@lpsct.org

Accounting Manager  
Craig Robillard  
860-361-6409 • robillardc@lpsct.org

Human Resource Manager  
Debbie DeLisle  
860-361-9022 • delislede@lpsct.org

Administrative Assistant  
Christine Escobar  
860-361-9012 • escobar@lpsct.org

District Liaison/Administrative Assistant  
Debbie Hodges  
860-361-9694 • hodgesd@lpsct.org

### Litchfield Middle/High School

Principal: Dr. Michael Pascento  
860-567-7530 • pascentom@lpsct.org

### Litchfield Intermediate School

Principal: Michael Valerio  
860-567-7520 • valeriom@lpsct.org

### Litchfield Center School

Principal: Lisa Deltano  
860-567-7510 • deltanol@lpsct.org

# Litchfield Intermediate School

## Science Happenings at LIS

By: Mrs. Brutting (LIS Science Teacher) and Henleigh-Belle Reeder (sixth-grader)

This spring, LIS science classes have been busy! The Connecticut Science Center visited our school to present its traveling assembly show, "Extreme Air". Students in Grades 4-6 experienced the amazing power of air as they witnessed objects hovering in mid-air and a board breaking using only a ping pong ball. We were blown away by the extreme air finale! Students also had an opportunity to experience a cross-grade-level science activity with Mr. Birdsall's high school environmental science class. Mrs. Brutting's sixth-grade science students, along with John Markelon (former LHS science teacher), assisted the high school students in the planting of a native wildflower field on the LHS campus around the solar array. This wildflower field is part of the efforts to ecologically restore the LHS campus. This field will have a significant impact on native insects as well as birds



6th-graders help plant wildflowers outside.



Carrie Szwed, Education Director at White Memorial, visits science classes at LIS with her friend, Jacob the Snake

and other local wildlife. Sixth-grader, Henleigh-Belle Reeder, had some thoughts to share regarding all the wonderful science-based activities at LIS. Reeder said, "Working with Mrs. Carrie, the Education Director at White Memorial, has always been a fun experience, especially when we got to work with some of the animals she brought in like Rocky the box turtle, Ophelia the owl, Salvador the salamander, and Jacob the snake. Of all the animals she has presented, I found the barred owl one of the coolest because it could turn its head a full 270 degrees and would look you straight in the eyes. I also found the nature walk quite pleasant. Mrs. Carrie did an amazing job showing us all the things she taught us in class, including Connecticut's geology and wildlife and its flora and fauna. Her points have really struck me with how much humans impact the Earth and how we can protect it now and in the future."

## Celebrating Student Excellence

By: Danielle Eichman, Secretary

On Friday, April 1, LIS held our annual Spelling Bee. Each classroom held their own classroom-level bee and from those classroom bees, thirty two spellers advanced to our school-wide bee. Held in the LIS auditorium, we had an amazing turnout including an enthusiastic student body cheering on their peers as well as families of the spelling bee participants. Spellers went an impressive nineteen rounds before Sophie Reynolds (winner) and Lillian Lipinsky (runner-up) were named our two finalists. Sophie and Lily advanced to the inter-district Spelling Bee on April 12 were they spelled well and represented Litchfield Intermediate School with pride! Congratulations to Sophie, Lily, and all our participants!

Spelling Bee participants: Avery Henneberry, Timothy Hunter, Caleb Jenkins, Maeve Moura, Madelyn Myers, Hunter Norris, Travis Pelkey-Benedetto, Leah Sobek, Mercedes Carlson, Amanda Fray, Tori Gagnon, Lars Joas-Cullen, Veronika Lars-Cullen, Lillian Lipinsky, Leah Obenshain, Alessandro Perugini, Jack Pesce, Sophie Reynolds, Julianna Verrilli, Samuel Worden, Henleigh-Belle Reeder, Roch Bolton, Andrew Calvano, Charlie Jenkins, Kamilah Keneshbaeva, Summer Kennedy-Doerr, Madison Malik, Liam McElhone, Abigail O'Mara, Ian Owler, Geoffrey Winters.



Proud winners of the 2022 LIS Spelling Bee.

Additionally, a group of LIS students were recognized in the Oliver Wolcott Library K-12 LPS Art Show where their artwork was displayed in the library's gallery. Criteria for selection was based on student artistic and creative excellence, including imaginative quality, originality, complexity, unity of idea technical proficiency, challenging use of materials, and experimentation.

LIS Students featured in the Art Show: Rylan Cahill, Nora Celella, Teagan Gagnon, Harper LaBonte, Colton Cheverie, Paul Gollenberg, Greyson Crossman, Lorenzo Vega, Sophie Reynolds, Leah Obenshain, Chailyn Fearon, Eibhlin Parker, Ella McDonnell, Charlotte Foss, Jehsinia Deleston-Weiss, Mya Bottass, Anthony Moore, Sean Cheetham, Natasha Flint, Emma Titus, Brooke Beebe, Derrick Strub, Caydan Zayas, Henleigh-Belle Reeder.

## The LITCHFIELD PRIDE

Published by Litchfield Public Schools

35 Wamogo Road, Litchfield, CT 06759  
Ph: 860-361-9033 • Fax: 860-361-6606  
Website: www.litchfieldschools.org

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## More News from Litchfield Intermediate School

### Specials Fun & Innovation

By: Jamie McDevitt, Library Media Specialist at LIS

Throughout the course of the 2021-2022 school year, the Specials Department at Litchfield Intermediate School planned a series of “Specials Fun Days” for students. Other than announcing the date of the “fun day,” students don’t know the activity until they get to their Special for the day. Students participated in a kickball tournament, a nature walk and scavenger hunt through White Memorial, unplugged coding activities to support Hour of Code, a school-wide Minute-To-Win-It competition, creating do-it-yourself kites, and most recently the Week of Innovation Cardboard Challenge.

Starting with the minute-to-win-it competition, students loved this event so much, it was held twice between January and February! The MC, Mr. Rosa, and Mr. Kidd could be heard throughout the halls cheering on students. Mrs. McDevitt, Señor Ruiz, and Mrs. Fearon kept the event running behind the scenes setting up equipment, running the timer, helping transition to every new event. Laughter and cheers filled the auditorium where students eagerly awaited each event. Students stacked cups into pyramids, built lego towers wearing oven mitts, had egg races, jump rope challenges, ping pong ball drops, played mini golf with hula hoops, mastered water bottle flips, filled their faces with sticky notes, balanced keva planks on popsicle sticks and plastic cups on yard sticks, kept beach balls afloat, and put their badminton serving skills to the test plus so many more! LIS showcased their skills, demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship and team spirit!

In April, the Specials Team took advantage of the windy spring weather and students had the opportunity to build and fly their own kites! Students met in the gym by grade level and used their STEAM skills to figure out the best way to cut, fold, secure, design and engineer a flyable kite! Students took to Plumb Hill and saw their kites take flight!

Most recently, LIS kicked off the Week of Innovation by hosting our own Cardboard Challenge! The Global Cardboard initiative, which has reached over 750,000 participants from 80 countries, invites kids around the world to design and build awesome creations using cardboard, recycled materials and their imaginations. Students were given a selection of cardboard, duct tape, packaging tape, and markers to create a game or design during their Specials. Students balanced, measured, secured, and designed successful creations using STEM to support their innovations and prepare for the showcase at the end of the week. On the day of innovation, students played each other’s cardboard games and creations, had the opportunity to ask questions, and engage in conversation about their designs and inspiration. We are so proud of how each group worked their way through the engineering design process to ask, imagine, plan, make, improve and communicate their ideas with each other and the school!



LIS Principal Michael Valerio tests out a cardboard skiball table designed and built by Kaiden Coldy and James Quigley.



LIS students proudly display their handmade kites.

## Litchfield Center School

### Summer Kick-Off Event

By: Lisa Deltano, Principal

In June, students and families were invited to participate in our Summer Kick-Off to Learning.

The event was sponsored by our PTO.

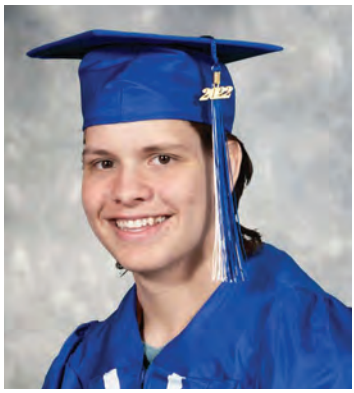
Joanne Moore, Library/Media Specialist, and Amy Thivierge, Reading Specialist, supported students in choosing a book from our book swap. Families sent in books that their children had enjoyed and were ready to part with. Each child was able to choose 4 books to bring home for summer reading.

Darlene Torrant, Math Specialist, provided math games for students and families to play to support their numeracy. Andy Parker, PE teacher, and

Cristin Marshall, Music teacher, engaged students in a game of limbo. Jenna Raymond, Art teacher, provided students with a fun photo booth to commemorate their year. Kristina Olmstead, Science teacher, challenged students to design and build the farthest flying airplane.

We also invited community partners to share their programs with families. We had representatives from OWL, the Litchfield Historical Society, White Memorial, Kids Play, and Litchfield Community Center. Working with our community partners gave families information on fun and educational opportunities to explore during the summer. We hope all families take advantage of the resources available to us in the area.

# Litchfield High School – Class of 2022



*Christian Abbott*



*Madeleine Andrulis*



*Ava Atwood*



*Harrison Barnes*



*Josh Bouthillier*



*Flynn Brennan*



*Gabriella Butler*



*Isabella Caselas*



*Sara Castonguay*



*Carol Corna*



*Ethan Cowles*



*Kadija Crapo*



*Searlait Curtiss*



*Anna Devaux*



*Deanna Dickey*



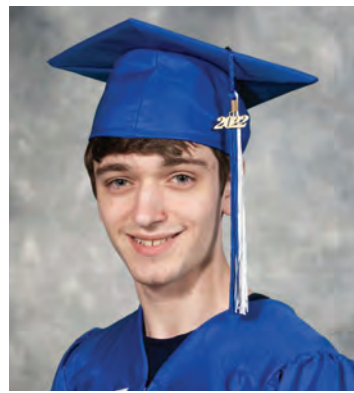
*Daniel Dieck*



*Shannon Donnelly*



*Anna Eykelhoff*



*Thomas Eykelhoff*



*Jake Ferrucci*



*Amber Festa*



*Thomas Giraldi*



*Allison Gollenberg*



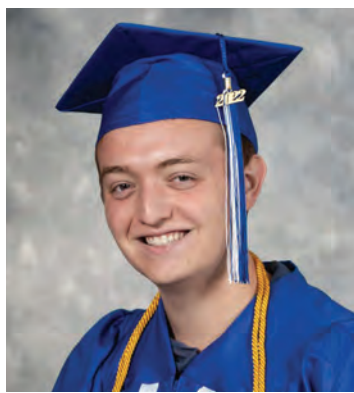
*Aiden Gonzalez*



*Alyssa Goode*



*Thomas Gostkowski*



*John Honigmann*



*Katelyn Kinahan*



*Jacob Kuegler*



*Savannah Leigh*

# Litchfield High School – Class of 2022



*Cheyenne Mazzochi*



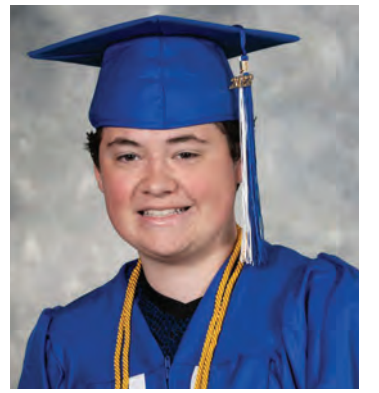
*Steven McCabe*



*Ellen McCarthy*



*John Morgan*



*William Olmstead*



*Olivia Organschi*



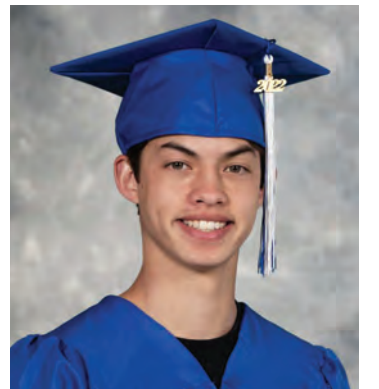
*Carter Orr*



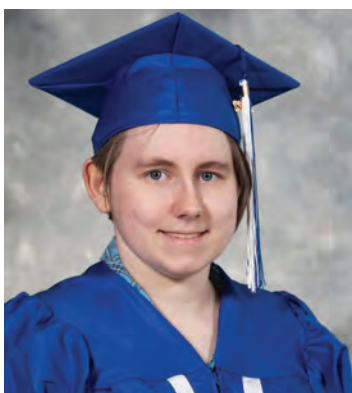
*Katharine Orr*



*Joel Osborne*



*Ethan Pang*



*Jared Parker*



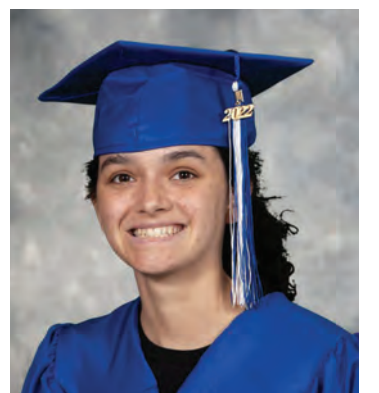
*Emily Pettinicchi*



*Jeremina Prenoveau*



*Renee Quesnel*



*Sophie Rodriguez*



*Tressa Roveto*



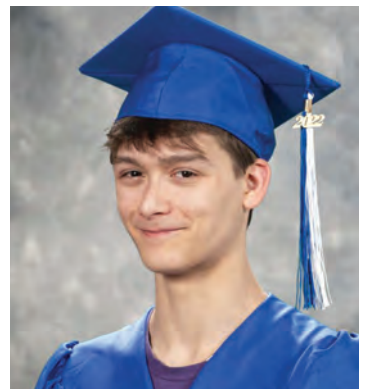
*Effie Saltourides*



*Tyrahlynn Santos*



*Mackenzie Schweter*



*Aaron Skutt*



*Alden Soucie*



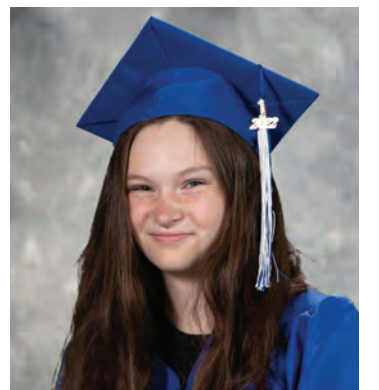
*Gabriel Stradman*



*Savanna Sweet*



*Audrey Terhune*



*Isabella Terhune*



*Ashlyn Tranquillo*



*Matthew Vinisko*



*Thaddeus Wojcik, IV*

# Litchfield Center School

## STEAM Workshops at Center School

By: Kristina Olmstead, Science Teacher

STEAM Activities benefited all students in Kindergarten through Grade Three. Students preselected their Workshop choices and were able to participate in 2 sessions in March and May. The Workshops included: Cardboard Boat Construction with Miss Raymond; Beginner Carpentry with Mr. Parker; Paper Circuits with Mrs. Olmstead; Fun with Geometric Shapes with Mrs. Tarrant; Marble Tracks with Mrs. Maraia; Learn Spanish with Senor Ruiz; Songwriting with Mrs. Marshall; Perler Bead Art with Mrs. Thivierge; Yoga for Health with Mrs. Pieger; and Book Binding with Mrs. Moore.

Grade-level classes were integrated, which made the sessions even more fun. The Litchfield Education Foundation funding provided the facilitators and students opportunities to use the Engineering Design Process: Define and research; decide materials needed; build, create, redesign; and communicate results. Thanks to the full funding of our Workshops by the LEF and the District we had adequate supplies and every student exited the workshops with their masterpieces.



May the 4th be with you! - Grade 3



Wishing "Officer Pete" a fantastic retirement!

## Summer Learning Opportunities

By: Pam Vecca, K-12 Humanities Coordinator

Litchfield and Region 6 will offer the following summer learning opportunities for our students in grades PreK-12. Students and families can access specific programming information and resources for each of these opportunities through our Extended Learning Opportunities website. We are pleased to offer some familiar programming as well as some new resources and activities to engage as many students as possible. Digital, low tech and no tech options will be available.

- AP/Honors assignments, specific to fall course schedule
- Code.org Computer Science at Home [PreK-12]
- Commissioner's Summer Math Challenge [K-12]
- CSDE CT Learning Hub
- Governor's Summer Reading Challenge [K-12]
- Greg Tang Summer Math Challenge [K-6]
- Khan Academy / Camp Khan [3-12]
- Lexia and Dreambox Access - literacy and numeracy practice [K-6]
- Reading and Writing Practice/Review Packets [K-5]
- Summer Math Passport [K-8]
- Summer Reading Bingo Activity [PreK-12]
- Sora Sweet Reads Summer Reading, ebooks & audiobooks [K-12]
- Town Library Summer Reading [PreK-12]
- 1000 Books before Kindergarten Program (through the town libraries)



Scan this QR Code to access the Summer Learning Website

# Litchfield Middle School

## LHS and LMS Music Department Receives Top Honors

By: Daniel Porri, LMS and LHS Band Director

The LMS and LHS Bands and Choirs earned top ratings at their adjudicated performance for Fantastic Festivals on Friday, April 29th. Fantastic Festivals sends two highly decorated music educators to adjudicate dozens of school ensembles from around the Tri-State area every spring. The adjudication includes voice recordings, written comments, a short clinic, and a detailed score and overall rating. Scores are based on five primary categories of musicianship: Tone Quality/Balance/Blend, Intonation, Rhythm, Technique, and Interpretation. Total scores of 92-100 receive the prestigious Platinum Rating, scores of 80-91 receive a Gold Rating, 70-79 receive Silver, and 50-69 receive Bronze.

After several weeks of focused preparation, all four ensembles performed exceptionally well and were roundly praised by the judges. The LHS Choir and LMS Band earned the elusive Platinum Rating, the LHS Band earned the highest possible Gold Rating (with a score of 91), and the LMS Choir earned a high Gold rating, as well. The head judge and festival coordinator shared this praise of our students in an email after the festival: "It was a pleasure to hear your groups this morning. You have quite a Music Department going! Great kids!"

We are extremely proud of our student-musicians for their efforts and resiliency in reestablishing the excellence of our music program after two very challenging years!



LHS Band



LHS Choir



LMS Choir



LMS Day of Innovation. Students participated in design process, engineering, and circuitry activities. (Photo taken by Angela Plourde, an 8th-grade math teacher.)

## Public Speaking Forum

By: Pam Vecca, K-12 Humanities Coordinator

Grade 6 students throughout the four towns of Goshen, Litchfield, Morris, and Warren were invited to participate in a public speaking forum at Wamogo Auditorium in early June. Students studied public speaking skills and worked on original speeches in their social studies classes. An essential part of the CT Social Studies Frameworks is taking informed action to engage students in civic life. This was a great opportunity for our students to practice new learning and share something that is meaningful to them.

Students were encouraged to find and research something they are passionate about. Their speeches could be informative or argumentative and within a three to five minute time frame. This forum was not a competition; rather, an opportunity for student voices to be heard as well as to practice an important life skill of speaking in public.

### Student participants and speech topics:

Gambit Abbenante (WRMS) - Spider Monkey  
 Samantha Barton (LIS): Recycle- Use Reusable Containers  
 Benjamin Bates (LIS): Don't Waste Food  
 Evelyn Beach (LIS): Don't Harm Insects  
 Fern Begley (WRMS) - Plastic Pollution  
 Drake Duhaime (WRMS) - Homework  
 Alice Fillie (WRMS) - Gender Equality  
 Anne Marie Connelly (WRMS) - Gender Equality  
 Luca D'Urso (WRMS) - Electric and Gas Cars  
 Sophia Hood (WRMS) - LGBTQ+  
 Jake Hubschman (WRMS) - Esports in school  
 April Knowles (WRMS) - Region 20  
 Henleigh-Belle Reeder (LIS): Fix Your Clothes!  
 Sullivan Santovasi (WRMS) - Animal Testing  
 Alicia Shanks (LIS): Support Women's Green Initiatives



# Litchfield High School

## Alumni Spotlight: Camille Powell

By: Sara and Katelyn, Journalism students

While a student at Litchfield High School, Dr. Camille Powell (née Richards) was passionate about her studies, athletics, and extracurricular activities. When she graduated in 2010, she carried her interests to college, where she became a physical therapist. Dr. Powell's daily philosophy is "Strive for progression, not perfection," and it has helped her keep going when times get hard, especially during the pandemic.

Dr. Powell studied at Springfield College where she received a Bachelor of Science in 2014 and her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree in 2016. She has worked at Hartford Hospital, the Institute of Living, and an inpatient rehabilitation hospital in Springfield. While working in Springfield, Dr. Powell taught a healthcare language class at her alma mater for undergraduate pre-physical therapy students and coordinated a children's exercise program at Shriners Hospital for Children. For the past two years, Dr. Powell worked at the main campus of Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.



*Camille Powell*

Some challenges that Dr. Powell faced while working at Mass General included working with insurance companies when they didn't agree with doctors' recommendations. She says that "Sometimes it required additional notes, direct conversation, and persistent advocacy for the patient." In addition, the pandemic turned her workplace from "a vibrant and lively place to a quiet and distanced environment filled with medical suits and masks." However, through the challenges of COVID-19, she was able to remain optimistic and continue growing as a doctor and as a person.

In April, Dr. Powell began a new job, working as a lecturer at Northeastern University, where she teaches PT students and oversees their clinical education. Her work is rewarding, and even though it has come with great challenges, Dr. Powell remains dedicated. She has loved her practical work and is now excited to be teaching again and guiding underrepresented PT students.

### CAMILLE POWELL'S PRIDE FIVE

**What are you currently reading?**

Raising Good Humans by Hunter Clarke-Fields

**What are you currently listening to?**

Whitney Houston classics

**What's the thing that's changed the most since you graduated from high school?**

Being the only black woman in my class, I simply didn't understand the significance of my own racial and cultural identity. As I completed my higher education and entered the medical field I had a better sense of the significance of my presence and how impactful it could be on the patients I serve as well as the students I teach. Representation matters. I now know that, which has led me to speak up more as an advocate and mentor.

**What's your favorite thing about Litchfield?**

White's Woods. It's truly beautiful in summer or winter.

**What else would you like Litchfield residents to know about you?**

My husband and I welcomed our first child into the world in November 2021. We are extremely excited!