



**WMRSD Leaders and Learners – Your Community Connection
White Mountains Regional School District**

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Whitefield, NH:

At Whitefield Elementary School

The middle school students at WES recently completed their Personal Mission Statements. The statement is part of The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens authored by Sean Covey. This is an extension of The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People that many adults have read and worked with. The Personal Mission Statement is part of Habit Two: Begin with the End in Mind and is like the individual's blueprint for their lives. The students started by answering the questions in The Great Discovery. These are ten fun questions that ask them to think about what they would like their future selves to be, what their talents are, and who the important/influential people are in their lives. From there, students start drafting the Personal Mission Statement. They may use quotes from books that are important to them, lyrics from favorite songs, or draw inspiration from pictures or photographs. Most often, the work that was done via The Great Discovery drives the content of the final draft. This year, all seventh and eighth graders worked on this through the daily advisory and their ELA class. Students were given the option of sharing their Personal Mission Statements publicly and many are now on display in the middle school. The student responses were impressive. Big career goals and plans for strong personal characters that made the world a better place were expressed. Students were encouraged to come back to their Personal Mission Statements on a regular basis as it is a living document that grows with them through life.

At Lancaster Elementary School

Did you know that movement during learning actually helps students to retain knowledge being presented? Movement also helps students' creativity, focus, and overall mood during class. That's why taking a look into most classrooms, many different seating options can be found. Options range from stools that are made to wobble, standing desks, single and double stationary bicycles with attached tabletops, and more. Students are encouraged to use these flexible seating options throughout class.

Another tool used to engage students within the classrooms as they embark on their educational journey each day is the power of choice. In many rooms and across grade levels, students often are given choices. These choices could be on a "what to do when you are done" board or list, posted as links in Google Classroom, or could be included on a learning menu or BINGO-style board. In other classrooms, students may sign up for activities and are in charge of tracking work completion. Once students have completed required learning activities, they then move on to choose another task that is content related. For example, students could choose to play a math partner game when done to review a skill being taught in class, could listen to an audiobook, go on interactive programs online, or match geography terms to a physical map. Classrooms also utilize hands-on center activities and games that help students to learn and consolidate skills while teachers work in small groups. Learners have changed and so have what are considered best practices in 21st century classrooms.



At White Mountains Regional High School

WMRHS is situated on around 400 acres of pristine forests, fields, and wildlife. There are year-round accessible trails for hiking, skiing, biking, and general use. With several miles of maintained trails, students and community members can participate in outdoor activities all year round. Unfortunately, this space is severely underused by the majority of our population.

Spartan Outdoor Learning Spaces is a grant-funded, community-driven project to improve the outdoor space of WMRHS. The overarching goal of this project is to increase the quantity, quality, and benefit of outdoor experiences for students and community members by transforming the built environment into an inviting landscape that encourages children and adults to experience the outdoors and participate in physical activity in a safe and engaging way.

The trails have been freshly mapped, but still require markers and trail signs. Many trails require maintenance to ensure they remain viable trails. Open spaces for classrooms have been identified but seating and work space must be found. Many more projects are on the project's 'to-do' list!

To gather some baseline data, community members are invited to provide feedback in the survey linked here: <https://forms.gle/yjkvebvVC6wuWHBz7>.

Thank you for taking the time to help the community! Keep an eye out for an upcoming Trail Naming Ceremony to be held at WMRHS to commemorate some key individuals in the community.