



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

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At Whitefield Elementary School

A great deal of effort has been devoted to setting up the remote/virtual environment to deliver academic curriculum. However, students and families frequently lamented the loss of social interaction that COVID has wrought. Paraprofessional Mike Webster has responded to a specific loss in our sixth grade with a creative opportunity. Over the past few months, Mr. Webster had been working with the sixth graders during recess. Many of them would play two hand touch football every day. Word quickly spread of the excitement for football, so he requested a flag football set. Flag football was a success, with students learning the Blitz, the Option, and the Screen pass. Each day, a different student would be quarterback, increasing the overall skill set of students.

Fast forward to remote learning and virtual check ins. Saddened and thinking football was over, a spark of hope was lit when a student emailed a hand-drawn rendering of Mr. Webster's favorite football player. Others' excitement about flag football games did not abate as they entered weeks three and four of being stuck at home. The students asked if a weekly Football program could be held remotely and **The Huddle** was born.

Each Thursday, football fans meet virtually in what they've affectionately termed WESPN, or Whitefield Elementary Sports Pirate Network. Each week **The Huddle** allows sixth graders to learn about notable football figures and teaches students about perseverance, leadership, teamwork, and resilience. It's given students the hope and expectation of September and catching that first pass of a flag football during recess.

At Lancaster Elementary School

A question teachers asked themselves as they stepped into unknown territory during this pandemic is "connection, and how?" How will they stay 'connected'? Teachers often mold into many roles in their daily work, but this was new. Nonetheless, they pulled together as a united front to make it work; with students' education as the foundation and ultimate priority. An educator's career 'why?' is centered around the students, so determination and adaptation were the keys to remote learning success. However, the question of personal connection was most often the underlying worry as began the remote learning journey.

For Mrs. Dingman, the LES 'Multi-Age' teacher, the powers of connection are the basis of everyday instruction within her classroom. With her students at home, she brainstormed ways to stay connected, using words of love, encouragement, reassurance, and familiarity. Mrs. Dingman continued her classroom 'wish you well' ritual through the computer, by showing her hands in a heart and having her students share their hearts back. The intent is to create a positive, encouraging start to the day.

What started as a simple 'my heart to your heart, I wish you well' ritual turned into something much bigger! Students maintained the connection and began using it within their homes. The worry for Mrs. Dingman was quickly reassured as she was reminded daily of her students' love through videos of 'virtual hugs and well wishes.' A continuous reminder for her of what the center of her 'why' is - the children, the connection, love, learning, and school.



At White Mountains Regional High School

Career and Technical Education is built on the foundation that students acquire technical skills through extensive hands-on experiences. With remote learning in place through the end of the year, teachers have been challenged to create authentic assignments while not being able to put critical tools and materials in the hands of students. The staff at WMRHS have worked very hard to continue to provide students with learning experiences that are engaging and provide critical skills. The school has utilized federal Perkins grant money to provide teachers with the technology necessary to meet the needs of remote learning.

Students in the Culinary Arts program follow Chef through a series of videos as he navigates complex cooking skills and challenges students to build off what they see and learn. In Welding, students are utilizing an online platform, ICEV, to learn about welding theory, welding blueprint reading, and complete online simulations. Students in the Cybersecurity and Networking program are able to continue working in simulated network labs, made possible through Cisco Academy. Students in our Maple Sugaring, JROTC, Criminal Justice, and Agricultural Science programs are able to follow instructors through informative videos that are followed up with activities that engage students in their content.

In an ideal world, students would be in our labs learning with their hands, however, our instructors have done a great job utilizing resources to make authentic learning possible in CTE.

Pictured: Lindsey Dingman - Multi-Age Classroom Teacher: Lancaster Elementary School and Emmett Ingerson - First Grade Student in Mrs. Dingman & Mrs. Bailey's 'Multi-Age' Classroom.