



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

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At Whitefield Elementary School

Though Teacher Appreciation Week may have passed, it is appropriate to stop for a moment and recognize your children's original teachers and the role that they are playing these days. As parents, you are your child's first teacher. You've exposed them to language, early literacy, counting, singing, and art as a natural part of being a mom or dad. You do not stop being teachers even after your children have entered the school building, however. You continue to be important and the most influential teacher in their lives. Once children enter the school building, much of the nuts and bolts of skill development in literacy, math, and exposure to content knowledge is facilitated by the classroom teacher, but parents continue to teach skills for life success. You also develop and maintain the partnership with school staff that increases the chances that your children master all the skills they need to be successful employees and employers, citizens of your communities, and family members. Children are surrounded by teachers; both intentional and unintentional. Today, parents and family members have taken more responsibility for the "nuts and bolts" mentioned before. You are again supporting the development of language, literacy, math, and so much more of the curriculum through the remote partnership. Many are relearning skills, especially in math, to better support their children. All are focusing, motivating, praising, and holding high expectations at home because the value of education is held so highly by our community. This year, we remember and salute you and your role as your child's teacher. Keep up the good work. Keep up the hard work. The end result is worth it.

At Lancaster Elementary School

With the continuation of remote learning for students for the remainder of the year, teachers are constantly looking for new and creative ways to connect with their students in ways that stretch beyond academics. Mrs. Jamie Colby, first grade teacher at LES, is one of those teachers who felt the need to bring some creativity and fun to her students as they learn from home.

Mrs. Colby found the idea of creating a "flat version" of herself to send to her students in an educational blog that she follows online. She knew this is just what her students needed to keep them motivated and excited to continue to work hard with their tasks through remote learning. During April vacation, each of the 21 students in Mrs. Colby's class received a letter in the mail explaining this fun and exciting idea. With this, students were asked to take their teacher on many adventures over the coming weeks and send photos to document the fun they have had with "flat Mrs. Colby."

Mrs. Colby looks forward to getting pictures of her students with the flat version of herself doing fun activities such as playing monopoly, jumping on a trampoline, going for walks, and even enjoying a sweet treat! Some students are even using flat Mrs. Colby to accompany them as they tackle their packets and online assignment work!



At White Mountains Regional High School

As the cost of higher education continues to increase, the Community College System of New Hampshire continues to find ways to make dual enrollment options more accessible for high school students. WMRHS encourages students to pursue these options as a way to not only challenge themselves academically, but also as a cost-saving opportunity to begin earning college credits before working toward a formal degree program. EStart, an online dual enrollment program, connects students with online college courses offered during both the Fall and Spring academic terms. While the course options are limited, students can access courses anytime and anywhere through the online platform. Course costs max out at \$150, with scholarships available and STEM courses running for no cost at all. For students looking for a wider variety of courses and the opportunity to learn on a college campus, the Early College



Program through White Mountains Community College is an excellent option. Students who want to make the most of both the school year and the summer can enroll for 50% of the tuition cost for a course. WMRHS students can also take advantage of the Running Start program, where teachers with college-level teaching credentials use the college's syllabus to teach the course for the same cost as EStart courses. With so many options available at deeply discounted prices, WMRHS fully encourages and supports any student who wants to explore the world of higher education.