



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

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This fall, WMRHS, LES, and WES have partnered to offer middle school students the opportunity to attend Career and Technical Education (CTE) introductory classes. The classes and transportation are supported by the Perkins Grant and include Criminal Justice, Culinary Arts and Hospitality, JROTC, Environmental and Sustainable Science, as well as Welding and Small Engines.

At WES, Unified Arts is offering a slate of electives in Art, Music, and Physical Education. These include classes like Drawing & Painting, Comic Arts, Strings & Things, Musical Theatre, Strength & Condition, and Outdoor Recreation.

At LES, Unified Arts teachers are offering electives in the content areas of Art, Media, Music, and Physical Education. These include classes like Drawing & Painting, Printmaking, Coding, Musical Composition, and team fitness activities.

This summer, students were presented with a catalog of CTE and UA offerings and registered for their preferences online. Each afternoon, students who chose CTE courses were transported to the high school to meet with their instructors and participate in hands-on, experiential learning. Students who choose LES- and WES-based UA classes made their way to the gym, music, or art rooms for courses that focus on specific areas of those content areas rather than more general surveys.

The response by students and staff has been overwhelmingly positive in terms of student engagement.

At Lancaster Elementary School

Kindergarten has been off to a fantastic start this year! The week of October 4th, LES celebrated fire safety. We had two community members from the Lancaster Fire Department come to LES on a fire truck to speak with all the students about fire safety. They discussed what to do if a fire ever happens at your house and encouraged students to speak with the families about a fire safety plan at home. This led into conversations about who to call if there was ever an emergency. They also learned about smoke detectors, what they look like, sound like, and what to do if you're ever at home and hear one. Students were also able to go on the truck and see what the inside of a fire truck looks like. This was so exciting and fascinating for all students! They even got to see a demonstration of the fireman going up the ladder. The students were engaged, excited, and actively participating during the presentation. LES would like to thank the firefighters for all they do for the community!



At White Mountains Regional High School

Starting this fall, WMRHS established an advisory program which has the primary goal of building “community within a community” and providing an adult who can be a daily point of contact for each student. First and foremost, an advisor program is about relationships. Students know that there is an adult in their daily lives to help them navigate their daily academic and general school lives and there is a space “where everyone knows their name.” WMRHS understands that strong relationships take time to build. As such, 40 minutes a day is allocated for advisory groups to meet. In addition, the advisory group stays together until the student graduates, which means there is continuity between student, advisor, and home over time.

In practice, what does this look like? Monday, Wednesday, and Friday are focused on relationship building, community building, and support. One advisory group calls it Family Fun Time. In elementary school language, it is morning circle meets snack time meets recess. Thus far, they have played name games and learned about each other's passions and interests, celebrated birthdays, participated in competitions with other advisory groups, set goals for the week, and discussed how “things are going.” On academic days, students review grade books, set individual goals for the week and for what needs to be focused on during the academic advisory block, make appointments with their teachers, and work on their academic responsibilities.

In an academic model where students switch rooms, teachers, and courses, the advisor space provides an anchor for the day. The Advisor Program is up and running this fall and it is exciting to see where the path is taking them!