



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

Issue - 12 - December 15, 2022

At Whitefield Elementary School

Helping students become a contributor is one of the Four Core Outcomes at Whitefield School, which include “Ready, Thinkers, Connected, Contributors.” Over the past few years a contributor has been defined as someone who gives to their community; what they give is personally and developmentally unique. Whether it is time and energy supporting an event or person, donation of something material or just a smile and “good morning” to a peer or offer to sit at the table, all of these have contributed positively to the community. In the past few months WES middle school students have been contributing a great deal to the school and Whitefield community. Students have been providing support to a variety of school events including the Great Pumpkin Walk, family movie nights as well as the first middle school dance. Students have also been supporting younger students at lunch time in the cafeteria, reading with them and assisting with dismissal. A group will be assisting some of the second and third graders at recess to referee basketball and touch football games as their younger peers learn the rules of the games. During the run up to the holidays, middle school students have been making cards and ornaments for residents at The Summit and wreaths for classroom doors. While engaging the community in these ways the middle school students have also created connections that may not have happened without the contributions; another of the Four Core Outcomes for WES students.

At White Mountains Regional High School

After 4 years, the Spartan Learning Commons is flourishing, and has definitely found its groove, and great work is continuing to happen in the space referred to as “The Commons.”

The Futures Program, which is overseen by Mike Curtis and Michelle Gross in Commons 118, offers extended learning opportunities (ELO’s) to give students the opportunity to earn credit through various avenues which include internships, Virtual Learning Academy (VLACS), and the IMPAACT program.



Next door in Commons 117, Sue Chancey, Mary Rodrigues, and George Carter instruct academic learning and provide interventions for students during the first 20 minutes of each block. After interventions finish, students check grades in PowerSchool so they can conference with the teacher about work that needs to be done and receive support with assignments and/or tests. Students of all grade levels can receive extra support with a pass from their teacher.

In Commons 116, Bethany Ridley and Beth Lufkin, coordinate academic assistance, intervention programs, and independent studies, and work with students to strengthen skills and close learning gaps. Students receiving interventions write to a Visual Provocation, work with IXL, complete basic life skills math and grammar, and get extra help with classroom assignments. Commons 116 uses benchmarks such as NWEA math and reading tests to gauge student growth. Students of all grade levels can also get a pass from their teachers to work in Commons 116 for a quiet space or assistance.

New this year - Commons 116 offers a supplemental food pantry for students and their families who are experiencing food insecurity. Beth Lufkin and Beth Ridley worked diligently to acquire grant money and work with the NH Food Bank to assist students and their families both in and out of the school setting. As a reminder, breakfast and lunches are no longer free for students, so if you have not filled out the form for free and reduced lunches please do so as soon as possible, as the numbers have changed and you may be surprised by the qualifications. This also helps secure money for our school programs. For more information please contact Beth Ridley (bridley@sau36.org) or Beth Lufkin (blufkin@sau36.org) or call 603 837-2528, ext. 6116.

At Lancaster Elementary School

This year the Lancaster School has been fortunate enough to receive grant money from *NH FIRST*® for LEGO® robotics kits for all classes K-6. *NH FIRST*® is an organization that inspires young people to be science and technology leaders and innovators by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills, while inspiring innovation, and building self-confidence, communication, and leadership skills as well. Students in 2nd & 3rd, and 5th & 6th grades have been participating in a LEGO® robotics unified class once a week since the beginning of the year. In addition, students in grades 7th and 8th have been able to choose LEGO robotics as a unified class starting this quarter. All students have enjoyed building robots out of LEGOs and then learning how to code these robots to do a specific task. These skills have allowed our students to be collaborative problem solvers while building 21st century skills and having fun all at the same time.

