



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

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At Whitefield Elementary School

Five professionals at WES recently began a training program on the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standards. The ISTE is a group of educators across the world who believe that technology can be a resource for teaching, learning, connecting and problem solving in the classroom. They have developed a set of seven student standards, seven educator standards and five leadership standards that lead to competency in the use of digital technology in the classroom and school. Jeremy Noyes, Angie Smith, Isabelle Klienschrodt, Nikki Ardolino and Mike Cronin are working together to explore and better understand the student standards. The participants individually review ten online modules that unpack each Student Standard, the Indicators of Mastery and examples of the Indicators across a range of grade levels. The group then meets to discuss how and where these indicators can be integrated into existing instructional practices.

The Student Standards include being an Empowered Learner, Digital Citizenship, Knowledge Construction, Innovative Design, Computational Thinking, Creative Design and Global Collaboration. Within each of the seven standards are specific skills students learn to develop the overarching standard. The ISTE standards are very similar to existing district cultural goals and instructional strategies such as moving from a culture of teaching to one of learning, enhancing instructional engagement through increased student agency and choice as well as integrating technology tools as part of inquiry and collaborative problem solving.

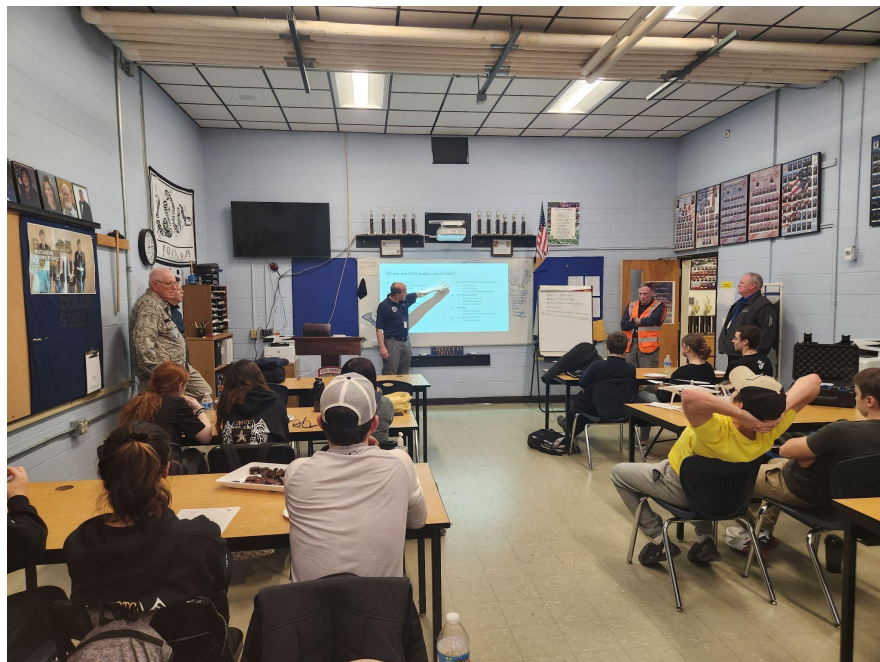
Next steps for the group are to complete the review of the Standards and Indicators and conduct an informal audit of their existence in classrooms. The group has already identified a number of Indicators that are integrated into day-to-day instruction in classrooms across the PK-12 grade span.

At White Mountains Regional High School

The WMRHS Futures Program held the second Student Lunch and Learn event for the 2022-23 School year on Friday February 17th with the featured careers- Aviation Industry and Drone Piloting. Guest speakers - Jay McCusker, Airline Mechanic; Jess Placey,



Airline Pilot; and Bill Moran, Jay Ennis, and John Tholl from Civil Air Patrol - Drone piloting. Students had an open invitation to attend these presentations - listen, learn and ask questions. All the guests spoke about their experiences and expressed how many opportunities are available in these careers. This event lasted approximately one hour, followed by a demonstration by Bill Moran and Jay Ennis of two drones, which were operated in our Gymnasium. Students also learned about the Franconia Soaring Organization that gives Students over the age of 14 the opportunity to learn about the operating systems and piloting of glider aircraft. WMRHS is very thankful for our local community members who share their time with students, showing them that there are great possibilities, locally available, in their futures.



At Lancaster Elementary School

Near the end of the 2021-2022 school year, members of the school leadership team at Lancaster Elementary School developed a plan to improve the middle school experience for our 7th and 8th grade students. Elements of that plan included redefining the morning Advisory time, establishing consistent routines and expectations, and providing quality professional learning opportunities to the middle school team.

Over the summer, several members of the middle school teaching team attended the Barr Summer Institute held at White Mountains Regional High School. At this Institute, teachers learned about the inquiry model of instruction and learning, had time to develop their own plans for building community within the middle school, and used as their goal improving the culture and climate among students and teachers.



In the fall of 2022, 7th and 8th graders began participating in weekly community building activities, like STEM challenges and competitive guessing games. Monthly “Town Hall” morning meetings reinforce school wide expectations around kindness, cell phone use, and standardized testing. Other social gatherings and team-building activities students have participated in included donuts and cider while students brainstormed ideas about incentives, and a pancake breakfast.

The middle school team has been working hard to build community, improve the climate and culture, and help students have a positive experience at Lancaster Elementary School. Thank you to all involved for making a difference!