



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

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At Lancaster Elementary School

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support

Not all students at school find success daily. Some students struggle with academics. Others struggle with behavioral challenges. Still, others struggle with both. How do schools respond to students with challenges or struggles that interfere with their ability to learn? Here at the Lancaster School we use a framework of interventions and supports designed to address these behavioral and academic challenges. This framework, known as Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), helps our school to identify struggling students early so that they may receive assistance quickly. MTSS Integrates Academic, Behavioral, and Social-Emotional Supports to support the whole child. Through the use of universal screeners and diagnostic assessments, the student's academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs are able to be identified. Additionally, MTSS goes beyond this to provide learning supports, and interventions for the students identified as needing the appropriate tiered level support. Through its incorporation of academic, behavioral, and social-emotional supports, MTSS is able to look at the full picture so it can provide maximum support for students, not just components of it. Here at the Lancaster School we have a team called the Education Support Team or EST who meet once a week to manage the components of MTSS. One meeting a month is dedicated to reviewing data such as behavior reports, Social Emotional screeners, attendance data and grades. This information helps us to keep tabs on students who may possibly be struggling for one reason or another and get ahead of it. The rest of the meetings are dedicated to ensuring that students who are receiving interventions are monitored for progress so that if sufficient progress is not being made we can adjust our approach. Some of the supports that we have in place to support students include equine therapy through Stable Connections in Guildhall, Vermont, Social Emotional groups that meet regularly to work on specific skill development, Character development opportunities, Pause, Own, Practice (POP) charts, along with many other supports. We are proud of the work we do everyday to support the diverse needs of our student body and hope to expand our options moving forward.



At Whitefield Elementary School

Whitefield School eighth grader Elizabeth Mooney has taken her interest and talents in writing outside of the walls of her ELA classroom. Recently she had a piece of historical fiction published in the online magazine *Teenink.com*. The national teen magazine is devoted entirely to teenage writing, art, photos, and forums. *Teenink.com* has over 480,000 registered users and is devoted to helping teens share their own voices, while developing reading, writing, creative and critical-thinking skills. Liz submitted her story “William and the Battle of Bunker Hill” back in February. The story describes a young boy’s experience by use of dialogue and deeply descriptive language. Elizabeth enjoys history and her writing illustrates just how knowledgeable she is. Elizabeth was also recently asked to join the student editor team at NH based *Under the Madness Magazine*, another online literary magazine for teen writers. Here, Liz will work with the NH Poet Laureate and a team of students as a Fiction Editor. She was nominated for the position by WES ELA teacher Stephanie Cameron. In the future, Liz hopes to pursue a career in the veterinary world, but her love of history and writing is well established.

At White Mountains Regional High School

The first annual White Mountains Invitational Ethics Bowl was held on Saturday, March 18, 2023. The event was hosted in collaboration with Spartan Culinary and Hospitality and co-sponsored by the Saint Anselm Center for Ethics Goodchild Ethics Bowl and the Barr Foundation. Over thirty students, judges, and spectators attended the event for a day of ethics-based discussions.

An Ethics Bowl is a competitive event similar to a debate in which participants engage in respectful, collaborative, and in-depth discussions of salient ethical topics. Teams compete in a series of matches in which they discuss cases and are judged on how well they address critical moral issues, consider multiple viewpoints, engage with the opposing team, and answer judges’ questions. Students discussed cases about various ethical issues, including social media, athletics, and robot technology.

“The idea to host an Ethics Bowl at WMRHS came from our partnership with the Saint Anselm College Center for Ethics,” explains Abby Mayne, Ethics Bowl Team advisor. “We travel to Manchester multiple times a year to compete against schools from southern New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and upstate New York. With this annual event, we hope to engage and partner with other schools in our region to bring these opportunities to North Country students.”

“It was a great experience for both our community and students to be able to experience the rigorous discussion and the challenging case set,” added Senior Nia Bebb.



Juniors Yonah Friedman, Dahlia Russell, Aastha Shah, and Savannah Stone comprised the winning team.