



ENGAGED LEARNING IN THE FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 14, 2022

Farmington High School

FHS holds Annual Capstone Networking Event

On September 20th and 21st, the FHS Career Center and Capstone program hosted the annual Capstone Networking Event in the FHS library. The event was held in person for the first time since 2019 after two years of being online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Twenty seven professionals, including 8 FHS alumni, participated in the event from a variety of career fields such as healthcare, engineering, sports analytics and broadcasting, journalism, the arts, law, business development, and public safety. Each Capstone student had an opportunity to meet with a professional in an area of interest, receive feedback on their project ideas, and begin networking to establish community connections for their projects. Capstone students came to these meetings dressed professionally and prepared with notes to maximize their time with these professionals. Students left their meetings with ideas and community contacts that will support their year long Capstone journeys. The Career Center and Capstone program would like to thank everyone within the FPS community and beyond who helped to make this event so successful.



Farmington High School – National Merit Scholarship Commended Students

Eighteen FHS students have been named Commended Students in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program. They are **Jordan Altimus, Vincent Ave'Lallemant, Seerat Bath, Grace Boye-Williams, Jingang Chen, Neel Kamath, Tanmay Kurkute, Matthew Leypold, David Marimekala, Vedanth Natarajan, Karen Pan, Karthik Pyneni, Radhika Sharma, Jingjin Shi, Vidipt Someshwar, Hannah Stephenson, Vangmayee Upadhyay** and **Yanna Zervas**. A Certificate of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation was presented to them.

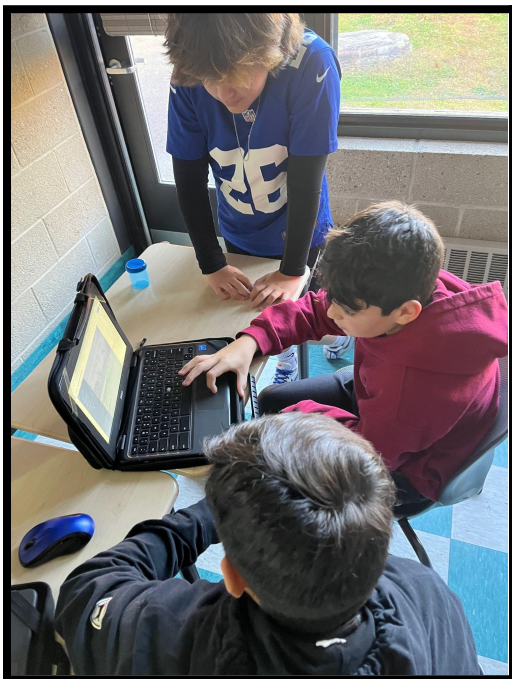
About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Our congratulations to these students who have demonstrated outstanding academic potential by their high performance in the extremely competitive National Merit Program.



Irving A. Robbins

Student-Led Conferences at IAR

What does it mean to lead your own learning? You can ask one of our Irving A. Robbins' Middle School students. During three days in October, students, their caretakers, and their advisory teacher engaged in "student-led conferences." Students shared their current progress, their learning goals, and their plan for future growth. Some of our students stated: "It was really helpful talking about what we have learned so far" and "It was a little scary talking about our grades with our family and teacher, but in the end, I felt excited and relieved." Preparing for and participating in student-led conferences allowed our students to be assessment-capable learners, reflecting on where they are in their learning, where they are going, and how they are going to get there. As FPS Global Citizens, our IAR Roadrunners are self-aware individuals and disciplined thinkers!



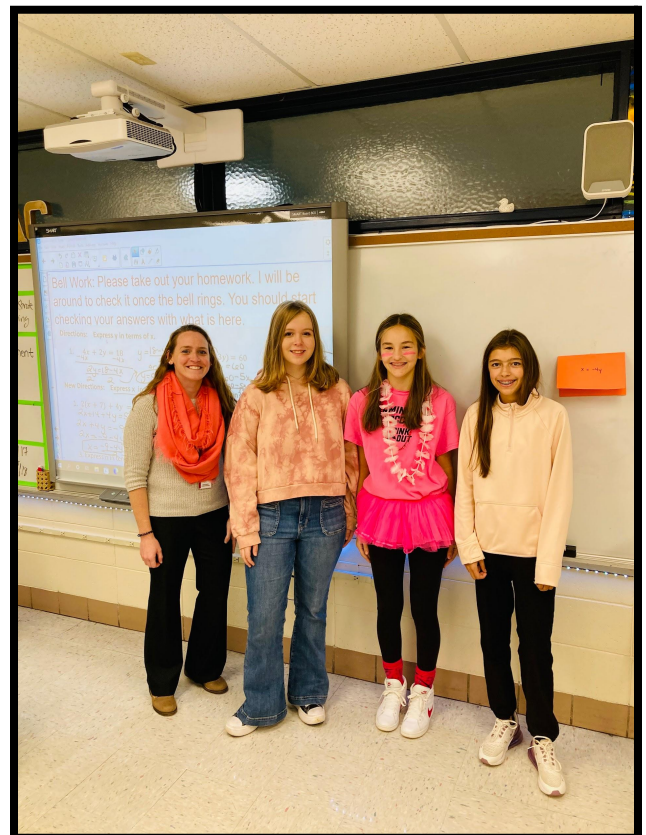
Building Community at IAR

IAR counselors hosted an annual Mix-it-Up Day during lunch and recess. The purpose of this day is to provide students with opportunities to form quality relationships and connections with their peers in a fun setting. During Mix-it-Up Day, students were encouraged to hold conversations with other students they didn't know. There were conversation starters on each table, and students took turns asking their peers questions. Then, students went outside where there was a DJ, and they danced! This was a fun event to celebrate our unity as a school community. We believe teamwork matters at IAR, so it was wonderful to see many faculty, staff, and students coming together for the festivities.



Pink Power Day at IAR

On October 18, IAR faculty, staff and students joined efforts with the FHS Girls Soccer team to donate to CT Breast Health Initiative. Students were excited to support an important cause, and they demonstrated that they were civic-minded contributors who have empathy and compassion for others.



West Woods Upper Elementary School

Grade six social studies classes are finishing their study of the Constitution in which they are learning about the structure and function of our government. In November, all classes visited Connecticut's Old State House Museum and the Connecticut State Capitol. At the Old State House, in addition to learning about the history of the building, students engaged in an interactive program on the three branches of government. This program simulated the function of all three branches of government and demonstrated how citizens can actively contribute to society. To further civic development, students toured the State Capitol and Legislative Office Building. They participated in a question and answer session about the work of their legislators. The tour included some highlights of Connecticut history.



Union School

All Union School teams have been engaging in Lesson Study in order to study, evaluate, and improve teaching and learning. Lesson Study can have a huge impact on teacher growth and student learning.

Each grade level chose a problem of practice related to their Team Action Research Goal and our School Development Plan. They developed a question to orient their learning.

In planning together, visiting and observing in each others classrooms, and debriefing observations of what students were doing, specific tasks, and lesson adjustments and redesign, teachers work to answer the question that is related to their problem of practice.



East Farms

We are working in Physical Education at East Farms on fostering teamwork and sportsmanship during our PE classes. Each week one class is selected to earn the 'Golden Shoe Award.' Classes that have earned this award are cheering each other on, celebrating wins in learning and game play, and creating a fun place to learn.



We have also been connecting math and building into our overhand throwing unit. Students have been counting money, creating structures with blocks, and more while participating in a variety of overhand throwing and catching activities. Bridging interdisciplinary instruction into PE is allowing our learners to apply concepts and skills in new and exciting ways.

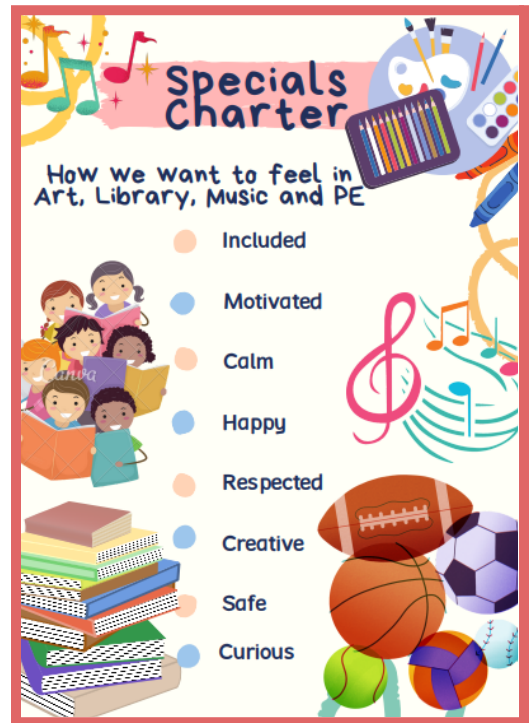
Students are still working with our Social Emotional Locker Room in Physical Education, too. Students are able to take moments to reflect and regulate their emotions during PE.



West District Elementary School

Stop, Collaborate, and Envision!

This year, West District Tigers came together in each grade to build a student-created Special's Charter that can be used in Art, Library, Music, and PE. Working together as grade-level teams, students articulated how they want to feel in specials each day. As specialists, we have noticed that having consistency between the four classes has helped students meet expectations, hold themselves accountable, foster independence/autonomy, and support each disposition in the Vision of a Global Citizen. As the year progresses, students will be able to use the Charter to reflect on their own contributions to their learning community in specials, and to set goals for their own improvement. The Charter has created a solid foundation that allows all students and teachers to be successful in each of our classes. The Specials Charter has already allowed students to successfully engage in cross-curricular learning as they took a Story Hike, pairing the story *Leaf Man* with an art activity involving natural materials collected on their hike.



Noah Wallace School

The year is off to a great start. Our First Graders have built classroom communities and developed friendships with peers. They have done a fabulous job! As writers, first graders are telling stories about their experiences and writing small moment stories. This has been a fun and engaging way to get to know each other a little better. In Math, students are showing the dispositions of a Disciplined Thinker by learning how to communicate their ideas to others, collaborating in partnerships and groups during lessons. In reading, readers are building on what they learned in Kindergarten and learning to build good reading habits. We have been enjoying and cherishing every day that we have with them!

