



ENGAGED LEARNING IN THE FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

April 4, 2023

Farmington High School

Farmington High School – FHS Athletes and Coach Honored with Postseason Accolades

Nick DeBrito '23, Luke Watson '23 and Head Football Coach Chris Machol set to be honored by The Doc Boioneau Northern Connecticut Chapter & College Hall of Fame on May 21st.

On Wednesday (March 15, 2023), two members (John Quaglia Jr. and Mark Snyder) from the The Doc Boioneau Northern Connecticut Chapter & College Hall of Fame surprised Nick DeBrito, Luke Watson and Coach Machol (in addition to family members, school counselors and FHS Administration) and presented Nick and Luke as the newest members of the organizations Scholar-Athlete Award. They will join 12 other student-athletes at the Aqua Turf, on May 21, for an awards ceremony and dinner.

The recipients of the scholar-athlete award were selected based upon a resume which takes into account Football Performance, Leadership, Community Involvement and Scholarship. Approximately 1,000 student-athletes (from 80 schools) were eligible for this award. 14 student-athletes were selected as recipients of the Scholar-Athlete Award.

Coach Machol is also being honored at the event as the recipient of the Asaph Schwapp Scholar-Athlete Alumnus Award. Coach played football at Newington High School from 1994-1997 and was the recipient of The Northern Connecticut Chapter & College Hall of Fame Scholar-Athlete award in 1998.

For more information about attending the banquet on May 21 please click [here](#).



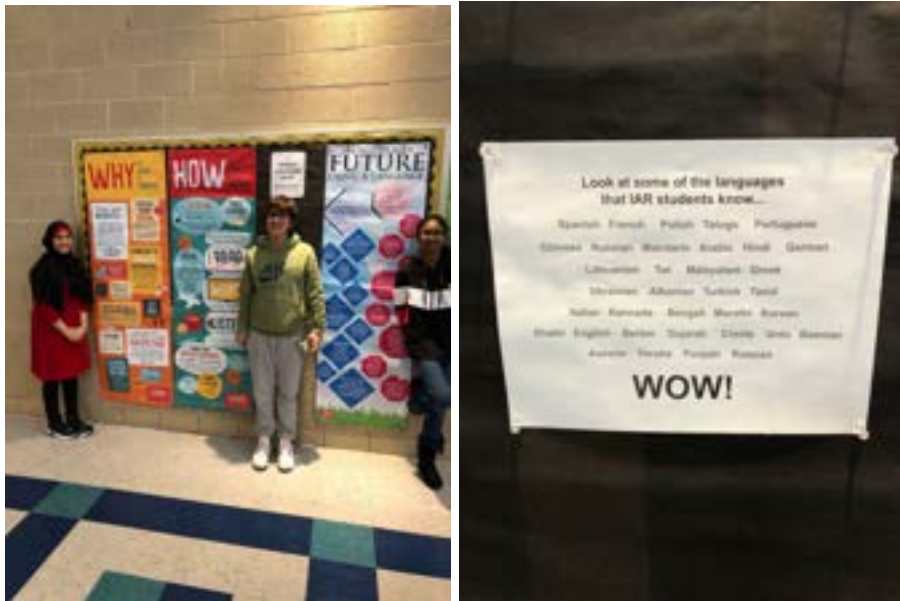
Farmington High School – FHS Social Justice Council Wins SERC Award

The Farmington High School (FHS) Social Justice Council was recently honored with the George A. Coleman Award by the Connecticut State Educational Resource Center (SERC) and they will be recognized at the *Dismantling Systemic Racism: 2023 Conference on Race, Education, and Success*. The Social Justice Council is made up of FHS students from the following clubs: Asian American Student Union, Black Student Union, BRAVE (Female Empowerment), Gender Sexuality Alliance, Indian Student Union, Jewish Student Union, LatinX Culture Club, Mental Health Awareness Club, Multicultural Student Union, Muslim Student Union, and Social Justice Club. The Social Justice Council led the planning and implementation of the 7th Annual [Social Justice Week](#) at FHS. Each year over 2,000 students, faculty, and staff attend the Social Justice Week presentations in an effort to “create an inclusive culture of respect, belonging, and high expectations” ([FPS Equity Framework](#)). The students on the Social Justice Council are embracing the district's commitment to Equity and they embody the district Vision of the Global Citizen.



Irving A. Robbins

IAR joyfully celebrated **World Language Week** (March 6-10) throughout the building! It is a week across the United States to celebrate & promote how languages benefit our lives! Students shared morning announcements in the following languages: Telugu, Chinese, French, and Portuguese!



The IAR World Language Club created this bulletin board for the main lobby of the school!



In Advisory, students shared which languages they know; these papers were left on the outside of student lockers for the week so everyone could walk by and see all the languages of our community!

West Woods Upper Elementary School

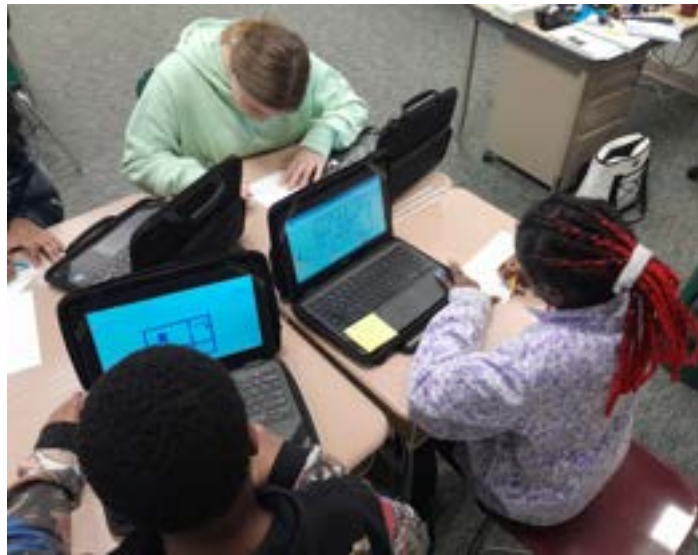
Physical Education

Recently, 5th and 6th grade students at West Woods took part in a Badminton unit during their physical education classes. The unit began with students exploring the history of badminton and its cultural origins. Students then shared with each other their own personal experiences and connections to the game. Then, they began working to unpack a variety of skills, as well as an understanding of the rules needed to lead to playing in a culminating doubles badminton tournament. Additionally, students had the opportunity to view a professional badminton match to observe for strategies used in the game that they might not have previously considered. West Woods Wildcats had the opportunity to apply the new strategies they discovered to their final round of games. For example, prior to watching the professional badminton match, students noted that they had assumed the only way to cover the court was to stand side by side with their partner and had never considered any other option. After watching the professional doubles match, students were seen attempting the “front and back” coverage strategy in their own games. Students demonstrated a high level of engagement throughout the unit as the complexity of skills and application of strategies progressed.



Physical Health and Wellness

In Grade 6 Physical Health and Wellness, students learned about keeping themselves safe in a number of different ways. Topics included fire safety, sun safety, bike and car safety, and water safety. During the fire safety lesson, students learned about the importance of having an evacuation plan in the case of a fire emergency. Students also learned about what constitutes a detailed and effective plan, specifically related to their own homes. Aspects to consider included where doors and windows are, a primary and secondary escape path from each room, and a setting a meeting spot where they would reconvene with their family once safely outside. Students then had the opportunity to draw a map of their home, making note of all the important aspects of an evacuation plan. Students were then tasked with bringing this plan home to share with family members, post in a visible place, and practice at least twice a year. This authentic and relevant task was highly engaging to students and provided them with a clear purpose that will positively impact their daily lives outside of school.



Union School

Union School Students performing, out and about and in the school



Union School Students are civic minded both in the school and beyond. Students from all grades performed the song "This Little Light of Mine" at the Hartford Wolfpack game on Saturday, March 25th. We had over 50 students in attendance and were featured during the break between the 2nd and 3rd period. Ms. Inga Smith led the students in song.

Our third grade strings musicians, led by Ms. Mikaela Oss, are performing classroom mini-concerts throughout the school. These third graders, all of whom are new to strings this year, have worked hard to learn what it means to be instrumental musicians. They are enjoying sharing their new performance skills with younger friends in the school.



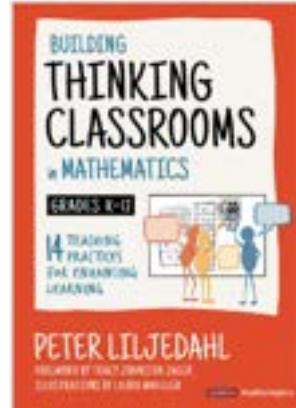
Kindergarten Read Alouds with a Cool Audience

Kindergarteners in Ms. Chang, Mrs. Galvin, and Mrs. Persa's classes reserved time with our facility dog Nash and his friend Clifton (Simsbury Police Department). They are practicing reading aloud and sharing some of their favorite stories with these K-9 friends.



East Farms

First grade mathematicians at East Farms have been trying out some strategies from the book *Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics* by Peter Liljedahl. These strategies yielded outcomes where students were able to demonstrate that they are Engaged Collaborators.



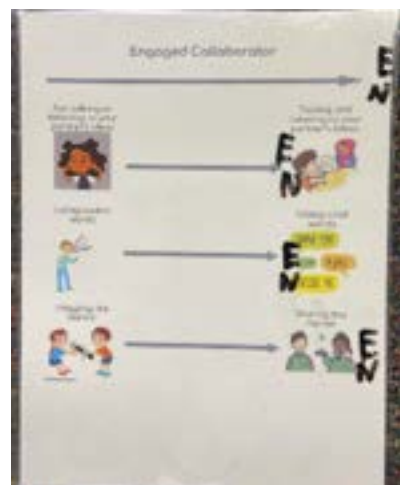
Students show how they have adaptability and can work with diverse groups of people. Each day they have random partners for the anchor task by choosing a playing card.



Students seek to understand the ideas of others and take perspective by working with only one marker and actively listening to their partners ideas.



Students reflect on how they did by using a kid-friendly engaged collaborator rubric.



West District Elementary School

West District Tigers in third grade are becoming **Civic-Minded Contributors** as they learn to be stewards of the land. On Wednesday, March 22nd, third graders kicked off a new integrated unit (On This Land: Indigenous Peoples and Colonists) by engaging in a collaborative task that allowed them to explore how the earliest inhabitants used the land. Students were tasked with using natural resources to create clothing, forms of shelter, and tools for building, eating, and playing. Through this inquiry-based activity, students were able to compare and contrast their own experiences which helped students gain perspective and develop an appreciation for others. Third graders were **Disciplined Thinkers** when they worked creatively and flexibly to design innovative solutions to the task at hand. Students are excited to continue learning, exploring, and contributing to the betterment of their local community as they progress through the unit.



Noah Wallace School

Disciplined thinkers are persistent, collaborate, and communicate effectively. Students in kindergarten developed rubrics to help them become more persistent and better collaborators when working on learning tasks earlier this year.

Most recently, students engaged in a math task in groups of two and had to communicate with their partner to help determine the configuration of certain dot cards. After this task, students brainstormed ways that they were good communicators and ways that they needed to improve their communication skills. This list will become a new communication rubric that they will be able to use when communicating with their peers during learning tasks.



I can co-create a rubric for communication.

Bad ☹️	Good 😊
· ignoring	· listening
· look around the room	· look at materials or partner
· unclear	· clear
· do nothing not talking	· talking / asking questions
· not paying attention to feedback	· pay attention to feedback