



ENGAGED LEARNING IN THE FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 15, 2023

Farmington High School

Class of 2026 takes part in ADL's Names Can Really Hurt Us Assembly

On May 3rd the FHS Class of 2026 took part in the Names Can Really Hurt Us assembly, which was co-facilitated by FHS students and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). The Names program is a dynamic, student-centered assembly program designed to provide a safe forum for students to examine important and difficult issues and begin to effect positive change in their own behavior and their school. Central to the Names Assembly program is a panel of students who share with their peers their stories about bullying and name-calling. Student voice is a key part to the Names Assembly and many times during the assembly students were able to participate and have their voices heard. The assembly culminated with FHS students sharing next steps about what we can do to improve the climate and culture as One School, One Community, and One Us.

Irving A. Robbins Middle School

IAR Science Bowl Team Competes at Nationals

At the end of April, Irving A. Robbins Middle School students Claire, Samanyu, Daniel, Pranit and Chengcheng competed in the national science bowl competition. From 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. (with breaks for snacks and meals), they competed against 47 other teams from the continental U.S., Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Their coach, Mrs. Nancy Stacy, their families, former and current teachers and their science bowl teammates at IAR helped to prepare them well for the competition! Students were required to be self-aware individuals, knowing themselves and how to best navigate the opportunities of the competition. They met civic-minded contributors who volunteered for the NSB event, many as alumni, from different STEM-related organizations and professions. We are proud to announce that our team placed in the Top 8 at the competition, earning \$1000 for IAR! Students answered questions in the fields of energy, biology, physics, math, earth and space science and chemistry. We are proud of our empowered learners for their academic achievements, but also for the compassion, inclusivity, understanding and encouragement they showed to not only each other, but to the other teams who were competing as well, representing the best traits of who we are in Farmington!



Welcoming Our Newest Roadrunners to IAR

Transition planning happens throughout the year at IAR. We know that **Actions Matter**, and the actions we take to welcome our new students are very important. We have several spring events designed to help us get to know our new students and their families, as well as helping them get to know us and our building. Recently, we had two important transition events, our new family orientation meeting in March, and our rising 6th grade students will visit IAR in May. Our student ambassadors are key members of the team for both events, which allows them to be **Civic-minded Contributors** contributing to our school community and helping fellow FPS students to acclimate to their new school. They are also **Engaged Collaborators** who help to create an inclusive environment by showing empathy and communicating effectively. Our ambassadors had an opportunity to share their personal experiences at IAR and these contributions were knowledgeable and reflective, also demonstrating how they are **Empowered Learners**.

College and Career Readiness at IAR



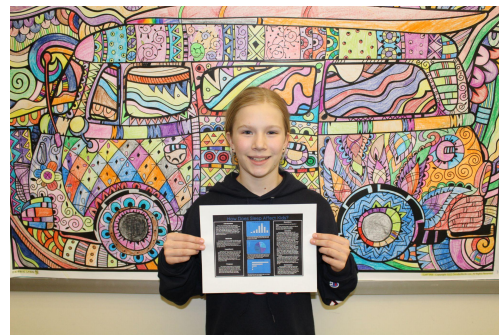
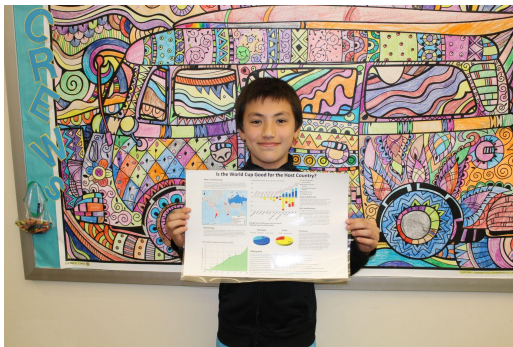
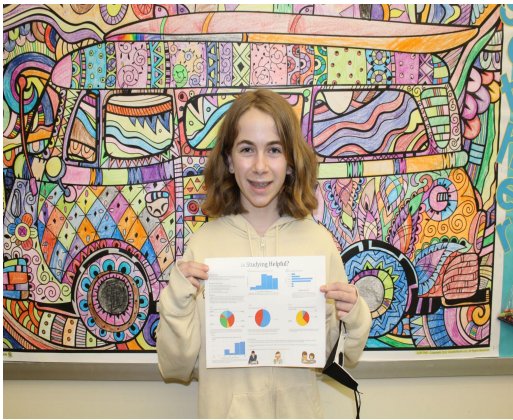
The School Counseling Department is hosting college and career readiness month at IAR during May. Students will utilize Naviance to improve their self-awareness by completing a career-interest inventory and learning about career clusters. These activities are designed to empower students to match their personality, interests, strengths and skills with an appropriate future occupation. All students will receive direct instruction through advisory, guidance lessons and several school-wide initiatives to empower them to take charge of their learning and make informed decisions about their future.

West Woods Upper Elementary School

During the months of February and March, sixth grade students in advanced math focused on two units: introduction to statistics, and measures of central tendency. To kick off these units, teachers presented the long term learning targets, as well as the opportunity for students to apply their knowledge and skills to a contest offered by the CT Chapter of the American Statistical Association. For the contest, students were asked to:

- Select a topic to investigate;
- Gather and examine data from different points of view, and
- Summarize the data and present their results graphically.

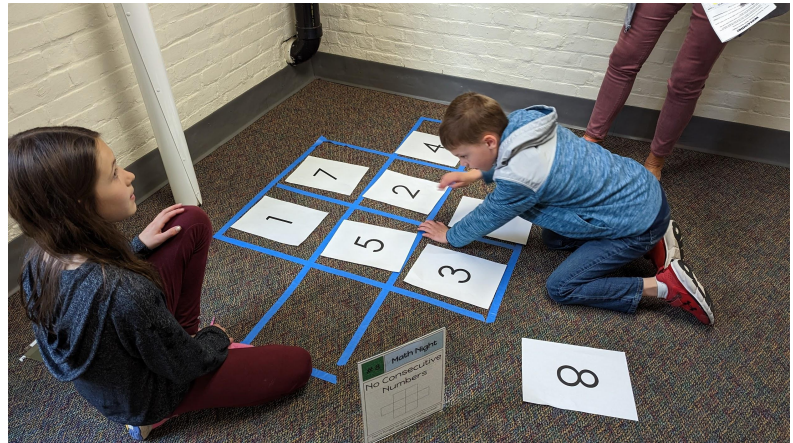
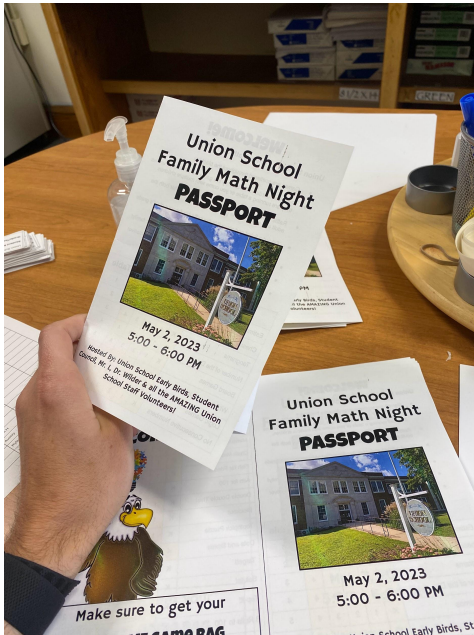
Students worked on their projects after each statistics lesson, during FLEX and at home. Many students submitted entries and **West Woods had 4 winners for the grade 4-6 category!** These students will be awarded certificates and monetary prizes this weekend at Yale, and their posters will also be entered into the ASA National Poster Competition.



Union School

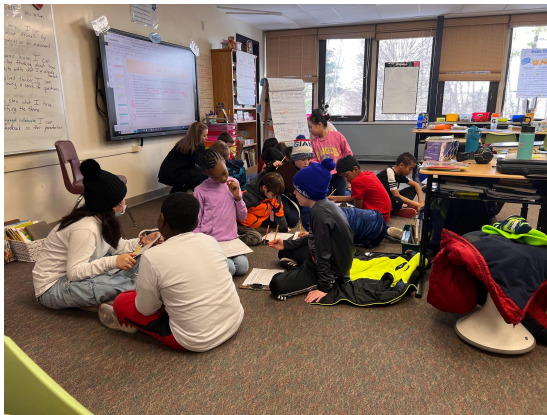
Math Game Night at Union School

On Tuesday, May 2nd, Union School students and families enjoyed a night of math-themed games and fun hosted by Mr Langstaff, Math Specialist, and our fourth grade leaders. Each table had a math activity or game to try. Students had a 'passport' to fill out to keep track of which activities they'd tried. After completing each game or activity, students earned raffle tickets. It was an amazing, well-attended event and fun was had by all.



East Farms

During the American Revolution Unit, fourth grade students demonstrated characteristics of being an engaged collaborator during their research process. The class collaboratively created criteria for successful notes. Using the co-created criteria, students analyzed the work of their peers and effectively communicated feedback about the strengths and recommendations of next steps. Students demonstrated open-mindedness when listening to the feedback from peers. After hearing feedback, students exhibited personal accountability by creating a goal to improve the information in their notes. This process lifted the quality of the students' research, which led to a deeper understanding of the topic.



Note Taking Criteria

I CAN synthesize information from a variety of texts while researching a particular topic and take notes effectively.

Criteria for Successful Notes

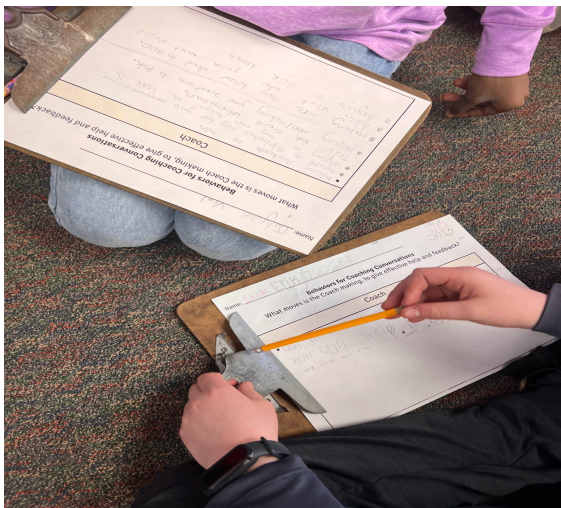
Facts

- Take notes in my **own words**
- Focus notes on the **specific subtopic**
- Consider **different viewpoints and perspectives**: What is a fact? What is someone's perspective?
- Look for **repetition** across sources, to validate information
- Include **important information**
- Organize** notes - consider text structure and **note-taking structures**

Sources

- Evaluate sources, to make sure they are **credible and appropriate** for my topic/ subtopics
- Cite** all sources
- Designate a **specific place in my notebook** to cite sources

Students co-created a note-taking criteria chart.



Students used the note-taking criteria chart to provide feedback.

West District Elementary School

West District School welcomed back an annual **Math & Literacy Game Night!** When members of our community come together and share space to celebrate learning, we are stronger! This family event reinforces the existing strong family-school partnerships by engaging families in ways that support high academic achievement. This *civic-mindedness* was evident this spring when hundreds of families engaged in both math and literacy activities with family and friends! West District Tigers and family members used reasonableness, strategy, perseverance and agility! Others had the opportunity to read by a campfire, fish for vowels and even share a book nonverbally using “Proloquo2Go”, an augmentative and alternative communication application.



Noah Wallace School

Third Grade: Our third-grade string players have been continuing to work on developing good bow holds, left hand position, and posture while playing their instruments. In March, they showcased their learning by performing Classroom Concerts for their peers. They are now preparing for their Spring Concert which will be a time for families to come see (and hear) all that they have accomplished this year!

Fourth Grade: Our fourth-grade string players have continued to build on their foundational skills and have been learning more advanced techniques with their Suzuki pieces. Members of the orchestra have also been working on music in preparation for their Spring Concert!

Practice Club: A number of third and fourth grade students have been participating in the after-school practice club since January. High school orchestra students have been coming to Noah Wallace every Thursday to play some strings-related games and/or help individual students reach their goals. Club participants have also been invited to perform alongside the high schoolers prior to the FHS orchestra concert!

Upcoming Music Events:

- May 17th - Grade 3 Spring Concert
 - 6:30 p.m.
- May 18th - FHS Orchestra Concert
 - Featuring some third and fourth grade string students
- May 25th - Grade 4 Spring Concert
 - 6:30 p.m.

